

Abu Dhabi D 8.50	Hong Kong H 9.50	Malta M 2.70
Albania L 2.50	Hungary H 2.50	Poland P 2.70
Andorra A 2.50	Ireland I 2.50	Portugal P 2.50
Austria A 2.50	Italy I 2.50	Romania R 2.50
Bahrain B 0.85	Jordan J 1.25	Saudi Arabia S 1.00
Belgium B 2.50	Kuwait K 0.50	Slovenia S 1.20
Bulgaria B 1.70	Lebanon L 3.00	Slovakia S 1.20
Canada C 1.20	Lithuania L 3.00	Slovenia S 1.20
Cyprus C 1.50	Madagascar M 2.50	Spain S 2.50
Czech Republic C 2.50	Malawi M 2.50	Sweden S 2.50
Dominican Republic D 1.50	Mali M 2.50	Switzerland S 2.50
Dubai D 2.50	Mexico M 2.50	Taiwan T 1.70
Egypt E 2.50	Morocco M 2.50	Turkey T 1.00
Finland F 2.50	Netherlands N 2.50	USA S 2.75
France F 2.50	Norway N 2.50	Zimbabwe Z 2.70
Germany G 2.50	Oman O 1.00	
Greece G 2.50		

The Guardian INTERNATIONAL

Printed in London, Manchester, Frankfurt and Roubaix

NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

46,498

The bitterest split in rock history?

Paula v Bob

G2 with European weather

Mark Lawson on Martin Jnr and Kingsley Snr

Amis amiss

G2 pages 4/5

Education

Why the Open University thinks its time has come

G2 pages 10/11

'If war breaks out with Beijing we are prepared. We have been preparing for 40 years'

Andrew Higgins in Quemoy reports as China today begins live-fire air and sea exercises off the Taiwanese island

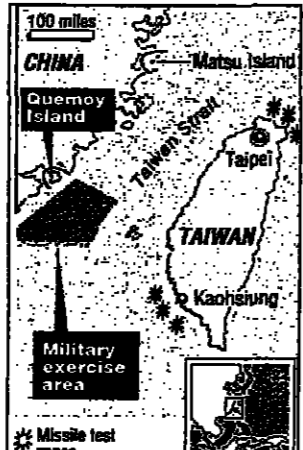
WITH 150,000 Chinese troops massed on the mainland, two miles from this Taiwanese island, and United States warships on the way from the Pacific and the Gulf, the soft-spoken headmaster of the Wuning Village Junior School decided yesterday it was time to stop pretending.

Assembling the 200 infants in his charge in an underground table tennis and recreation hall designed to double as a bomb shelter, he tried to explain why their parents might be acting a little strangely.

"Children watch television and hear people talking about missiles and military manoeuvres," Wu Chi-teng said. "They can see from adults that the atmosphere here is not normal."

Quemoy, honeycombed with bunkers, crawling with Taiwanese troops and awash with election banners for Taiwan's March 22 presidential poll, is so close to China that the red flag is clearly visible atop a mainland school.

Surrounded all their lives by minefields, slogans preaching "find life in death", fields studded with spiked poles to deter paratroopers, anti-aircraft gunners in the middle of roundabouts, and other reminders of China's unfinished civil war, locals like to act nonchalant. The headmaster has still not got around to unhooking a bomb shelter in the playground.



But their calm is starting to crack. After starting a new round of ballistic missile tests last Friday, Beijing's army today begins air and sea live-fire war games south of Quemoy. Their proximity and scale has led to fears — fanned by Beijing — that the island could come under attack.

The clearest worry index is rice. At the Gold South Bridge, a cramped shop piled to the ceiling with freshly delivered supplies, rice sales have doubled. The other index is gold. Thieves last week raided two Buddhist temples and stole gold tablets, a theft attributed by the local newspaper to a desire to hedge against China's menace.

Quemoy's highest official, Chen Shui-tai, a veteran of military intelligence, believes there is a 30 per cent chance of an attack. He summoned them over the weekend to plan for the provision of water, electricity and rice in the event of war.

"If war breaks out with Beijing we are prepared. We have been preparing for 40 years. We have fought them time and again before. We have lots of experience," said Mr Chen, who now spends much of the day sweating under television lights as he labours to tell Taiwan and the world that everything is under control.

"I tell the Communist Party clearly and forcefully, yes you can take Quemoy eventually but you will pay a terrible price. It will cost you 150,000 lives," Mr Chen said. "They should consider this. Do they want to pay such a price? Do they want Quemoy turned into a cemetery?"

He estimates that the local garrison, recently reinforced and now thought to be about the same size as the civilian population of 47,000, could hold out unaided for six months. "If no one comes to help us then we would have to surrender or be finished off."

But so far, here on the front line of volatile international crisis, the main casualties are



Job for superman... A Taiwanese poster yesterday shows President Lee Teng-hui 'fighting another' battle after another.

groups of old women with silver teeth, who make their living selling artillery-shell holders, rice-wine bottles in the shape of army boots, plastic souvenir soldiers and other tourist paraphernalia.

"They [the tourists] are all cowards and do not dare come here anymore," growled an ancient harridan, charging 25 for Polaroid photographs taken against a bombed-out building from the first battle for Quemoy in 1949. "We've been frightened here so many times, we're no longer afraid."

The mood of soldiers swings between jittery vigilance as they patrol roads, dig trenches and man checkpoints with a zeal not seen in years, and raucous abandon when off duty, as in the Good Food Karaoke Bar early yesterday afternoon, guzzling

beer and howling off-key to sickly love songs. A video game parlour across the road from the karturn to page 2, column 3



Police declare Jackson assault a Pulp fiction

IT IS rarely that Jarvis Cocker gets to accuse anyone of being immature. But yesterday the singer, who executed a one-man stage invasion to disrupt Michael Jackson's performance at the Brit Awards last month, told Jackson fans to grow up after police cleared him of all allegations of assaulting children during his outburst.

In the end Cocker, lead singer of the Brit-pop band Pulp, slipped out the back entrance forcing a stampede as the press and broadcasters competed with primary school children for a sight. In his Joe 90 glasses, pink

shirt and purple tie Cocker, aged 32, later said he would consider civil action over the accusations which followed the incident. He celebrated his release with a glass of champagne and hailed the decision as a "victory for common sense".

At the time Cocker explained his actions as a "protest at the way Michael Jackson sees himself as some Christ-like figure with the power of healing". Yesterday he said: "I have not got a personal vendetta against Michael Jackson; anybody who invented the moonwalk is all right by me. It was that performance that was in that taste. I think it would be

good for him to get a bit of reality into his life." He added: "I was very upset [by the accusations]. I think anybody would be. It is one of the worst things you could be accused of. I mean, it is not something you would put on your CV, is it?"

After his protest Cocker received the backing of several celebrities including Noel Gallagher of Oasis, Mick Hucknall of Simply Red and Brian Harvey of East 17. But yesterday a humble Cocker said: "I am not a hero. It really was something that was done on the spur of the moment. I just felt I had to make some kind of a statement about it."



Jarvis Cocker, in glasses, and minders PHOTOGRAPH SEAN SMITH

Inside News 2 Lotteries 8 Comment 9 Obituaries 10 Financial news 11

G2

Inside Story 4/5 Law 7 Arts 8/9 Education 10/11 Women 12/13

Quick Crossword 15 Cartoons 15 Radio 16 Television 16 Weather 16



Michael White Political Editor

JOHN Major last night set his face against Sir James Goldsmith's demands for an early referendum on the prospective European super-state, despite warnings in a leaked Conservative memorandum that the billionaire financier's fringe party could cost the Tories up to 25 marginal seats at the general election.

As the scale of Sir James's pressure on the Cabinet to bow to his agenda — or face a £20 million election fight with his Referendum Party — emerged at Westminster, nervous Tory MPs and MEPs were at each other's throats over the best tactics for neutralising what some regard as crude blackmail.

Their minds were concentrated by a chilling assessment of the Anglo-French MEP's organisational strength — including 38 full-time staff, 25,000 supporters and 400 approved candidates — in an internal memo for Tory MEPs, which concluded that it could make the difference between the Conservative Party winning or losing the election.

The memo warns Sir James could spend more than the three main parties put together to achieve his single purpose. "Sir James is personally in charge of identifying and selecting candidates. These candidates are credible; some are former Conservatives and are not fringe natters," it states.

In 1992, 14 Tory MPs won with majorities of less than 1.3 per cent. Sir James, says the memo, could get 1 to 2 per cent.

Tomorrow ministers will test the alleged return of the economic feel-good factor by announcing April 11 as the date for the delayed bye-election in Staffordshire SE, where the late David Lightbown had a 7,192 Conservative majority.

Defeat would cut Mr Major's Commons majority to

one and lay him open to a no confidence vote on the two hyper-sensitive issues of the moment, Northern Ireland and Europe.

Though some MPs believe that the Tory chairman, Brian Mawhinney, has been engaged in extensive negotiation with Goldsmith forces, party officials rubbished yesterday's leaked memo as the unauthorised conclusions of a researcher, Alastair Graham. It appears to have been passed to the BBC from within the Tory Euro-group in order to isolate and undermine Sir James.

In the short term, at least, it is having the opposite effect on the eve of today's white paper setting out the Government's position on the forthcoming inter-governmental conference (IGC) to review the 1991 Maastricht Treaty, whose "federalist" aims Sir James wants retrospectively put to voters in a referendum on election day.

Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, a Major ally, was more blunt, telling BBC Radio: "We aren't going to be panicked into any particular stance just because one very rich businessman takes a particular view about these issues."

Under pressure from Dr Mawhinney, Mr Major has signalled a Tory commitment to a referendum on a single currency — probably this month — though Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, is still holding out.

Mr Graham's memo describes direct mailing efforts from a computer database, costly market research and advertising, telephone canvassing and other techniques. "The Referendum Party is a serious organisation which is intent on causing damage to the Conservative Party," he warns.

Many Tories feel that overstates the threat since Sir James's candidates would not get more than 500 votes at most, some from Labour supporters.

Hugo Young, page 9

CELEBRATE THE TRIUMPH OF THE YEAR'S MOST BELOVED FILM!

5 ACADEMY AWARD NOMINATIONS

BEST PICTURE

BEST ACTOR: Massimo Troisi
BEST SCREENPLAY: Anou Ferrante, Michel Radford, Françoise Sagan, Claude Sautou, Massimo Troisi
BEST DIRECTOR: Michael Radford
BEST SCORE: Luis Bacalov

5 BAFTA NOMINATIONS

Including BEST FILM (Not in the English language)
BEST DIRECTOR • BEST ACTOR

THE POSTMAN (IL POSTINO)

NOW SHOWING

MGM SHAPTES AVE 0161 670 6033
MGM CANTON ST 0161 670 6033

AND AT SELECTED CINEMAS ACROSS THE COUNTRY

Sketch

Crèche course in stirring debate



Simon Hoggart

JEREMY Corbyn (Salisbury N) asked for a full-time nursery in the House of Commons...

the time to air them (why ever not?). Dennis Skinner said that in 1998 they had trotted through 33 questions in 45 minutes...

What's more, however offensive Jeremy Paxman is at least he doesn't shout a wall of abuse when a politician is trying to say something.

None was angrier than Bill Cash (C, Stafford) in whose constituency the first weekend crash took place...

David Winnick (Lab, Walsall N) asked whether the low attendance might be linked with the missing media...

Review

Long on jams, short of cuts

Caroline Sullivan

Ben Harper Jazz Cafe

TAKE a young black American with an acoustic guitar and folkly protest songs...

message was that the man is a guitar and folkly protest songs and what do you get, aside from comparisons with Tracy Chapman?

Harper, now on his second album, is generating a buzz reminiscent of the one surrounding Chapman's 1988 debut.

The long jam is rarely welcome at gigs, where the audience can't very well go and switch on the kettle...

It seems inappropriate for an artist with a faculty for pointed lyrics to devote so much time to meandering instrumentals...

There were times during extended tom-tom breaks when you couldn't help longing for an armoire and Cracker on the TV...

He may have spoken in a half-wake Los Angeles drawl, but the excitement was conveyed by the way he shifted in his chair...

Six arrested as ice hockey players slug it out — before match starts

Martin Wainwright

POLICE and sporting authorities are investigating a new record for one of the world's most aggressive games...

handoffs as medical staff attended to a broken nose and smashed tooth on the Eumberside Hawks' new Canadian signing Bruce Bell...



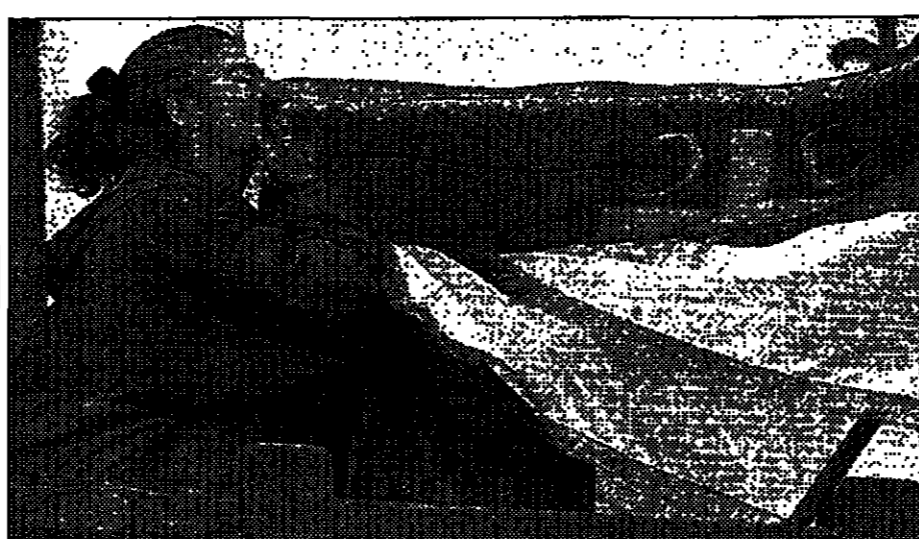
Final gesture... A drunken Serb holds a book titled, We are Tito's, Tito is Ours, outside the burning court in Ildiza yesterday

Serb police leave with a bang

'Ildiza we will never forget you,' he sang, dripping blood

Julian Borger in Ildiza

THE policeman stumbled, glared through drunken eyes at the French soldiers...



A Serb woman kisses the flag at Ildiza town hall, before fleeing

The police station fire caused especially raucous celebration because it was set under the noses of the French troops...

single-handedly to dismantle a heavy metal gate. Falling soldiers diving for cover...

As black smoke billowed from the court-house and debris landed on the surrounding streets...

Apartheid's generals on trial

Twenty accused plead innocent to sending Inkatha killers against ANC

David Bessford in Durban

SOUTH AFRICA'S former minister of defence, General Magnus Malan, and his 19 co-accused pleaded not guilty to charges of murder and conspiracy yesterday...



Guards flank General Malan outside the court yesterday

KwaMakhutha in KwaZulu-Natal. The state alleges the massacre was a trial run by a group of 200 Inkatha assassins...

He told the packed courtroom: 'Justice will be pursued in this case no matter what the cost...'

Documents showed that the former head of the defence force, General Kat Liebenberg, was 'one of the principal architects' of the conspiracy...

'If war occurs we are prepared. We have been preparing for 40 years'

continued from page 1 aoke bar was yesterday packed with soldiers transfixed by screens flashing simulated warfare with China.

tion Army is through binoculars. They glower across the water and bombard the mainland with pop-music from mammoth loudspeakers at each end of Quemoy.

'They were reading newspapers and moving to the rhythm of our music.'

regularly vulnerable spot. The headmaster, Mr Wu, said he had been asked whether it might not be better to flee Quemoy...

Young to get £2.5m payoff

Patrick Donovan City Editor

LORD YOUNG, the former Tory cabinet minister, is likely to pick up more than £2.5 million as compensation for losing his job as chairman of Cable and Wireless in an acrimonious boardroom coup.

The compensation brings to £3.8 million the overall cost of payoffs from November's sacking of Lord Young and his arch-rival, former chief executive James Ross, C&W has already announced...

Both men were ousted by the rest of the board because they were locked in a power struggle which had begun to threaten the stability of the group.

Lord Young has managed to extract the huge payout after protracted negotiations through his solicitors despite previously claiming that he had no formal contract of employment.

It is understood that Lord Young, a former trade and industry secretary, based his claim on a 'secret' letter from the late Lord Sharr...

Under the terms of agreement, Lord Young stands to pick-up: £1.8 million of £118,750 which amounts to three month's salary.

£1 million of £118,750 which amounts to three month's salary.

£1 million of £118,750 which amounts to three month's salary.

£1 million of £118,750 which amounts to three month's salary.

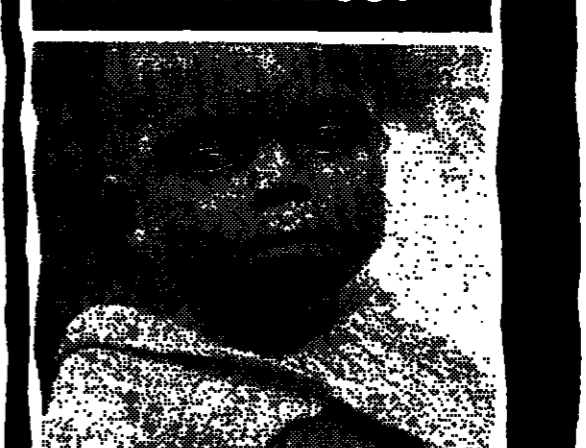
£1 million of £118,750 which amounts to three month's salary.

£1 million of £118,750 which amounts to three month's salary.

£1 million of £118,750 which amounts to three month's salary.

£1 million of £118,750 which amounts to three month's salary.

Do you really need 50p more than he does?



50p a day won't get you very far. But use it to sponsor a child in need and it could go a lot further than you ever thought possible.

Please sponsor a child today. This is what the money is spent on: school and medical care. Tick boxes for sponsorship options.



Lords revolt on divorce bill seen off

Rebecca Smithers
Political Correspondent

THE Government last night quashed a Lords rebellion which sought to extend the "cooling off" period for divorce from 12 months to 18 months, as business managers conceded that the controversial new Family Law Bill faces a rough ride when it moves to the Commons.

A cross-party amendment increasing the period for "reflection and consideration" before the granting of a divorce to 18 months in contested cases, or where couples have children, was defeated by a Government majority of 48. Voting was 157 to 109.

The amendment was tabled by the former Tory cabinet minister, Baroness Young, who has led a campaign to change key aspects of the divorce reforms, which she fears will undermine the institution of marriage.

Speaking during the bill's third Reading debate, Baroness Young told peers: "In my entire political experience, which extends almost 50 years, I have never had the support for the stand that I have taken over anything as I have had in this case."

The legislation has had a rocky ride through the Lords — notably from the Tory benches — which led to a humiliating Government defeat nearly two weeks ago over proposals not to allow the proceeds of pensions to be split between divorcing couples.

The bill goes to the Commons around Easter, when a sizeable group of Conservatives — including the former cabinet minister John Patten — has pledged to back Lady Young. Last night government business managers admitted they were worried about the bill's next stage.

Although Labour has given the legislation nominal support, it has made clear that the Government should not take its continued backing for granted. Labour's legal affairs spokesman, Paul Boateng, says the party wants assurances on amendments aimed at supporting families and strengthening the law against violence in the home.

During yesterday's debate, Lord Archer, the Bishop of Ripon and Lord Boyd-Carpenter were among the supporters of Lady Young's amendment. Labour peers, led by Lord Irvine of Lairg, backed the Government's proposals, claiming that lengthening the cooling off period would cause "greater harm to innocent children" and that the law cannot compel people to live together.

'Barmy' scheme tries to put Harold Wilson in a car park

Martin Wainwright

THE tradition of prophets falling to find honour in their home towns was upheld yesterday with the release of proposals to site a statue of the late Lord Wilson by a Huddersfield leading bay or on a multi-storey car park.

The full range of options will be presented to the council tomorrow, but a pre-emptive strike by the famously self-deprecating prime minister's friends was launched yesterday to quash the more "barmy" schemes.

"It's an insult to an outstanding prime minister," said Lord Wilson's friend from schooldays, Harold Ainley, aged 80, who has been campaigning for a tribute since the statesman died last year.

Councillors in the three main parties, which have

jointly appealed for public subscriptions for a lifelike monument, turned on large parts of the "zealous but bizarre" shortlist of 12 sites prepared by their planners.

Friend Fisher, a Conservative, said: "It's outrageous. If you are going to recognise a bloke for what he's done, it should be in St George's Square, where people can see."

The square, along with Market Square and McAlpine Stadium where Huddersfield Town play, is at the top of the shortlist; but an agreement tomorrow may only be the dress rehearsal for battles about the actual statue.

Mr Ainley and Eric Lawson, a Labour councillor, form a united front against the statue wearing Wilson's trademark Gannex mac. "No mac, please," said Mr Lawson. "But I suppose we'll have to accept that godawful pipe."

The Flick chair has been causing growing anguish for Oxford dons. It has raised profound moral questions on the ethics of fundraising when colleges are increasingly dependent on private largesse

Edward Pilkington on suspect largesse

Balliol accepts cash despite 'link to Nazis'

THE governing body of Balliol College, Oxford, yesterday gave unanimous backing to the establishment of a professorship financed by the grandson of a Nazi war criminal.

Members of the college critical of the move to set up a Flick chair for European Thought called the decision a betrayal of Balliol's liberal traditions.

"It is a moral disgrace which represents the abandonment of Balliol's humane record. I am ashamed of my college," said David Selbourne, a writer on ethics.

But the college last night responded that it had no moral case to answer. "Balliol does not accept that anyone can bear guilt by descent," it said.

Prominent figures in the Jewish community agreed a line had to be drawn under Germany's Nazi past. Lord Weidenfeld, who is of Austrian Jewish descent and who lost half his family in the Holocaust, said: "There is a new generation in Germany and it is time for reconciliation."

The Flick chair has been causing growing anguish for Oxford dons, particularly within Balliol, for the past few months. It has raised profound moral questions on the ethics of fundraising when colleges are increasingly dependent on private largesse.

In 1991 Dr Gert-Rudolph Flick, an heir to the Mercedes car fortune, who is a benefactor of colleges, hospitals and the arts, offered Oxford a sum believed to be £350,000 over five years to set up a chair in his name.

The money was accepted by the university and earmarked for Balliol until it was pointed out that the history of the Flick empire could render the donation highly controversial. Dr Flick's grandfather, a prominent industrialist called Friedrich Flick, was put on trial as a war criminal at Nuremberg in 1947 and sentenced to seven years' imprisonment. He was found guilty of using slave labour in his munitions factories.

Critics of the Flick chair were not satisfied. They said the committee, by operating behind closed doors, could not be regarded as independent.

At the heart of the debate is the provenance of Dr Flick's immense personal wealth — estimated at about £200 million. Supporters say his inheritance stemmed from the rebuilding of the Flick empire after the war as a separate, and morally unquestionable, venture. The wartime operations of Friedrich Flick were almost entirely dismantled or lost to the Communists in eastern Europe.

But critics insist that wartime profits made with slave labour were used as seed-corn to finance the family's post-war recovery. Under anti-Nazi laws, the family was forced to break up several of its industrial cartels but received ample compensation which was then reinvested in car production.

"There is a saying that gold has no smell, but that isn't true. Gold reeks, and there is a distinctly unpleasant odour coming off here," said David Cesarani, professor of Jewish studies at Manchester University.

The Holocaust Educational Trust, which has many Jewish survivors among its members, said there was no point in insisting that "every deutschemark has to be redeemed". But it said that it was concerned about an academic chair bearing the name Flick. The trust's chairman, Labour MP Greville Janner, has written to the university

to protest. Bombarded by several such protests, the university recently agreed to rename the professorship in the hope of disassociating it from Friedrich. It will now be called the Gert-Rudolph Flick chair.

But the dispute is unlikely to die down until Dr Flick pleads his opponents by making an unequivocal repudiation of the actions of his grandfather. Lord Weidenfeld last night said that "anybody who knows him well knows he is on the side of the angels".

A final resolution will have to wait, however, until Dr Flick returns from east Africa where he cannot be contacted.

Leader comment, page 8

tour of Dachau concentration camp in 1936. Flick described "large airy rooms" with canteen facilities as good as those of any large hotel.

His main crime in the eyes of Nuremberg investigators was his company's alleged use of 48,000 "slave" labourers, many of whom were drawn from concentration camps to work in munitions factories.

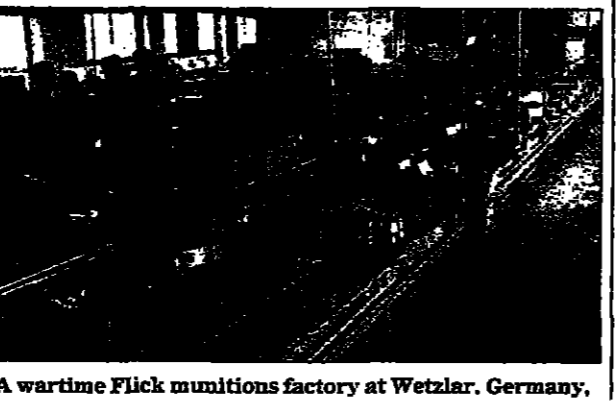
According to Robert Wistrich, author of *Who's Who in Nazi Germany*, eight out of 10 of Flick's slave labourers died while working for him.

In 1947 Flick was one of 32 German industrialists to face war crime trials in Nuremberg. He asserted that he had only been following SS orders, and said "nothing will convince us we are war criminals". But evidence produced in court showed he had requested slave labour from the SS to help produce railway trucks. He was sentenced to seven years' imprisonment, but was released in 1950.

He consistently declined to apologise for his war record or to pay compensation to the surviving slave labourers. In 1970 the former American High Commissioner for Germany, John McCloy, who had granted Flick clemency 20 years earlier, asked him to pay compensation as a gesture of goodwill.

Flick refused, stating: "There is no argument, not even a moral one, to justify fulfilling such demands."

Friedrich Flick died in 1972 leaving \$1 billion to his children.



A wartime Flick munitions factory at Wetzlar, Germany.

Frederick the Great's lucre and guilt

Richest man in post-war Germany made fortune on the back of Nazi slave labour

THEY called him Frederick the Great in reference to the fortune amassed as post-war Germany's richest man. The epithet could equally be applied to the scale of his war crimes, writes Edward Pilkington.

Friedrich Flick was born on July 10 1883 in Ernsdorf, Westphalia. He began work in the iron industry and by the 1930s had risen to be head of United Steel Works, which owned plants in east Germany and controlled most of the Ruhr's production.

He was an early member of the Keppeler Circle of industrialists who supported Hitler, investing 7 million

marks in the Nazis during the 1930s. In return, the country's largest private iron, steel and arms producer, he benefited from government contracts.

Flick was an adviser and financial backer to Heinrich Himmler, the SS leader who spearheaded the extermination of Jews. Flick funds are said to have been used for the transportation of 112 Jews from Auschwitz to Natzweiler under a project in which they were to be killed and used for "ethnographic" research.

Michael Pinto-Duschinsky, a political writer who has studied Flick's record, has noted how Himmler took the industrialist on a

tour of Dachau concentration camp in 1936. Flick described "large airy rooms" with canteen facilities as good as those of any large hotel.

His main crime in the eyes of Nuremberg investigators was his company's alleged use of 48,000 "slave" labourers, many of whom were drawn from concentration camps to work in munitions factories.

According to Robert Wistrich, author of *Who's Who in Nazi Germany*, eight out of 10 of Flick's slave labourers died while working for him.

In 1947 Flick was one of 32 German industrialists to face war crime trials in Nuremberg. He asserted that he had only been following SS orders, and said "nothing will convince us we are

war criminals". But evidence produced in court showed he had requested slave labour from the SS to help produce railway trucks. He was sentenced to seven years' imprisonment, but was released in 1950.

He consistently declined to apologise for his war record or to pay compensation to the surviving slave labourers. In 1970 the former American High Commissioner for Germany, John McCloy, who had granted Flick clemency 20 years earlier, asked him to pay compensation as a gesture of goodwill.

Flick refused, stating: "There is no argument, not even a moral one, to justify fulfilling such demands."

Friedrich Flick died in 1972 leaving \$1 billion to his children.

"You're not sure your health insurance will pay my bill, are you?"

Until now, buying a cheaper private healthplan has meant compromising on the amount of cover you get. But Primicare, a new policy from Prime Health, actually gives you comprehensive cover — at a budget price.

So, if you're buying a policy, ask yourself: does it cover out-patient treatment, like specialist consultations? Does it give you immediate access to private treatment? Does it guarantee full payment of surgeons' and anaesthetists' fees? Will it pay for alternative medicine?

Primicare gives you all this. In fact, we believe it to be the best deal currently on the market. Why not switch immediately? You can be covered the moment you contact our Customer Advisers on 0800 77 99 55.

Prime Health

A member of the Standard Life Group

Call Prime Health on 0800 77 99 55, or fill in the coupon.

Title _____ First name _____
PLEASE USE BLOCK CAPITALS
Surname _____ Date of birth _____
Address _____
Postcode _____
Phone (inc. STD code) Day _____ Evening _____
Date of birth of the eldest person requiring cover _____
Cover required: Single Married Family Single parent family
If you already have private medical insurance please state renewal date _____
Please post to (no stamp required) Prime Health Limited, FREEPOST, SK 3042 Stockport, Cheshire SK2 6YL. M01 555 NG

The break-up of Bob and Paula is rapidly deteriorating into the messiest, the ugliest, the most pernicious in rock history. Not since David and Angie Bowie finally filed for divorce in 1980 have we been subjected to such a gruesome public spectacle. In front of our eyes, two people at the height of celebrity are dragging each other relentlessly down.

Your to get £2.5 payo

ig

Do you really need 50p more than he does?



4 BRITAIN

Tories split on grammar school plan

Donald MacLeod
Education Correspondent

A DEEPENING split in the Government over education became clear yesterday as Gillian Shephard, the Education and Employment Secretary, distanced herself from Downing Street plans for a big expansion of grammar schools using private finance.

She told the grant maintained schools' annual conference in Birmingham that there would be a cautious extension of schools' right to select up to 15 per cent of pupils on academic ability, but stressed there would be no pressure on comprehensives to change.

Undermining the basis for a new Conservative initiative to invite industry to put up funding for new grammar schools, Mrs Shephard said powers to do this already existed. "There is nothing to stop that happening now in the grant maintained sector within the existing arrangements," she said. But she made it clear applications would be considered in the light of surplus places in the locality, a test which has defeated several applications for new schools.

Privately, grant maintained schools doubt if substantial funding would come from the private sector and point to the failure of the city technology colleges initiative which managed to start only 15 schools even when most of the money was put up by Government.

Sir Rob Balchin, chairman of the Grant Maintained Schools Foundation, said the experience of CTCs showed a few private sponsors were willing to support education but the Government would have to find large sums.

Mrs Shephard made it clear she had nothing to do with the disclosure on private finance. "Industry wants to improve the quality of education for all children, not a minority, and will fight shy of anything that has political baggage."

new grant maintained grammar schools.

"The Government is in favour of selection as part of the general diversity of the state education system because I believe firmly the existence of selective schools helps to drive up standards," said Mrs Shephard.

Ministers would be looking at the recent consultation on admissions procedures and the possibility of taking forward selection before the general election.

But she told the conference it was nonsense to suggest the Government wanted to press schools to become selective.

"Grant maintained status suits all types of schools. I know some of you became grant maintained to preserve the comprehensive nature of your schools. And if a school is happy with its present character, that's fine."

She predicted that Labour's conversion to self government for schools would be reversed if it gained power, and grant maintained schools and local authority schools would lose their freedoms.

David Blunkett, Labour's education spokesman, said John Major was coming up with ideas that had been rejected by the decision of Labour frontbencher Harriet Harman to send her son Joe to a grammar. Mr Blunkett has conceded that some comprehensives have failed and called for schools to specialise more.

David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, which represents many grant maintained heads, said the Government was placing far too much reliance on private finance. "Industry wants to improve the quality of education for all children, not a minority, and will fight shy of anything that has political baggage."

Leader comment, page 8



Police divers search the River Ely for clues to 'vicious and callous' murder. A sexual motive for the killing has not been ruled out

PHOTOGRAPHS: HUN EVANS

Killer left woman to drown in river

Geoffrey Gibbs

A WOMAN murdered while taking her dogs for a late-night walk in a Cardiff suburb was tied up, thrown into a river and left to drown, police said yesterday.

Karen Skipper's partially clothed body was recovered from the river Ely by police divers on Sunday morning after a local businessman found her two dogs sitting whining on the river bank and raised the alarm.

A post-mortem examination has established that she drowned, but showed no obvious signs of sexual assault, though she had suffered superficial injuries.

Mrs Skipper, aged 34, regularly walked her dogs in the area.

Detectives said it was not known whether she was conscious when she entered the water. Her hands were tied behind her back.

"This was a vicious and callous attack on a woman simply out walking her dogs," said Detective Superintendent Terry Ewington, the officer heading the investigation.

"She has met with someone who has bound her hands, put her in the river and killed her. It is a brutal and shocking case.

"There is obviously great concern about the terrible manner of her death. We are most anxious to trace everyone in the area on Saturday night or early Sunday morning because they may have seen something suspicious going on."

Police, who are keen to trace Mrs Skipper's movements in the three days leading up to her murder, say robbery does not appear to have been a motive for the attack as gold jewellery she was wearing had not been removed.

They have not ruled out a sexual motive.

Mrs Skipper's body was discovered lying in five feet of water 10 feet from the banks of the Ely at Birdies Field in the Fairwater area of the city.

The scene of the murder is only a mile from where office worker Geraldine Palk, 27, was killed in December 1990.



Karen Skipper and her dogs Sammy (left) and Ellen. They were found whining on river bank



Mrs Skipper was last seen after leaving the house she shared with three friends in Mill Road, Ely, at 11.30 on Saturday night to take her dogs, Sammy, a black Labrador cross-breed, and Ellen, a golden coloured mixed breed, for their night-time walk.

After walking down Mill Road she is thought to have crossed a footbridge leading to Birdies Field, a playing field area which is popular with anglers, dog walkers and children but unfit at night.

Her body was found about 400 yards from the footbridge.

Police have not established an exact time of death but believe she was killed at about midnight or shortly afterwards.

Her body was not discovered until 8.30 the following morning.

A businessman out walking his own dogs came across Sammy and Ellen sitting forlornly at the river's edge and spotted some articles of women's clothing.

covered lying in five feet of water 10 feet from the banks of the Ely at Birdies Field in the Fairwater area of the city.

The scene of the murder is only a mile from where office worker Geraldine Palk, 27, was killed in December 1990.

She had been stabbed 81 times and raped. Her body was left in a brook that runs alongside a local leisure centre.

Police said that while there is nothing to connect the two murders, a link has not been ruled out and officers will refer to details on the Palk computerised database should the need arise.

Genetic samples were volunteered by more than 4,000 men in the long-running Palk murder case but her killer was not caught.

Genetic samples were volunteered by more than 4,000 men in the long-running Palk murder case but her killer was not caught.

Axle break blamed for Stafford train crash

Keith Harper
Transport Editor

A FRACTURED axle was confirmed by Railtrack as the cause of the Stafford rail accident late on Friday.

Railtrack said that the investigation team was "specially focusing on the collapse of an axle on one of the four wheel tank wagons".

It stressed that the team had found no evidence of track defect, vandalism or signalling irregularity.

Railtrack has appointed James Ward, a former director of safety and quality at British Rail's research division, to lead an independent inquiry into the cause of the accident, in which a Royal Mail sorter was killed.

Mr Ward will be assisted on

the panel by senior managers from Railtrack and the train operators.

The component parts of the wagon have been moved to the railway technical centre at Derby for further examination and tests.

Railtrack said the results of the investigations would form "a vital part" of the evidence to be considered by the inquiry which is expected to begin hearings this week.

It also confirmed that the initial derailment of the freight train occurred about 500 yards before the collision with the mail train.

The investigation will concentrate on whether the suspect freight wagon was properly maintained.

It is one of about 14,000 privately owned wagons currently on the railway. A further 17,000 were recently sold off by British Rail when it dis-

posed of its freight business to the American operator Wisconsin.

Railtrack was yesterday criticised by Brian Donohoe, Labour MP for Cunningham South and a member of the Commons transport select committee, for cutting back on its capacity to respond to accidents. Six months ago the company reduced the number of rail-mounted recovery cranes from 11 to five, none based in Scotland.

Mr Donohoe said fewer cranes of this type meant Railtrack had much larger areas to cover "and that must affect their response times to the scene of an accident".

Railtrack said: "These are train-mounted breakdown cranes we are talking about. Unlike the emergency services, the cranes and people who work them have no life-saving role."

Officer 'claimed blacks lack education for armed forces'

David Pallister

A MINISTRY OF Defence spokesman is quoted in the Voice newspaper today as saying blacks are not educated enough for the armed forces.

In an article on the under-representation of blacks in the services, Squadron Leader Tony Cowan is alleged to have said: "The armed forces tend to recruit people who are quite well-educated."

"One set of people are good at one thing but not so good at another. Your Afro-Caribbean is a big chap, often very athletic and more interested in sport than music."

The interview is likely to inflame controversy over racism in the forces following the leak last week of a Commission for Racial Equality report which found systematic abuse.

The MoD's chief press officer, Tim Downes, was yesterday unable to deny that the comments were made, but said that Squadron Leader Cowan "doesn't recognise these particular words in the form they are in".

He added: "The squadron leader was attempting at some length to explain to the journalist what our policy is."

"Whatever may have been said, this quote is not an accurate reflection of the MoD's policy."

"We do not have any discrimination. We have an open recruitment policy to the armed forces. We positively welcome people from all ethnic groups."

The CRE spokesman said: "All the armed services have a very low level of ethnic minority recruitment, which is set against a very low level of applications." In 1994-95, ethnic minority servicemen made up 1 per cent of the navy, 0.5 per cent of the army and 0.5 per cent of the RAF.

Couple in debt sue lover

Court hears bitter tale of unpaid home bills and broken promises

Owen Bowcott

A MARRIED woman who had a 16-year affair with a Surrey property developer yesterday began suing her former lover for £200,000 to cover accumulated debts - supported by her husband.

The relationship, revealed by a London High Court hearing, ended in a bitter mixture of unpaid bills, broken promises and blackmail allegations, it was claimed.

Doreen Marsh, who lives in Salisbury, maintains her former lover, Basil Dunning, encouraged her to live the high life and agreed to pay for a £180,000 home. But, after suffering a stroke, Mr Dunning stopped paying the bills, leaving her and her husband Donald, who had long known about the affair, to face financial ruin.

The couple, both now grey-haired, are demanding that Mr Dunning, of Puttenham, Guildford, cover their debts, which have now risen to £200,000.

Mr Dunning insists that "certainly by mid-1991 he was being blackmailed", a claim which the Marshes deny. Mr Marsh, he said,

threatened to tell his wife of the affair unless he paid up. Having already lavished thousands of pounds on his paramour, he claims Mr and Mrs Marsh are being "just greedy", Mr Justice Lindsay heard.

Gabriel Fadipe, counsel for the couple, said Mrs Marsh and her property developer lover had been carrying on an "intimate affair" for 16 years when, in 1988, he offered to buy her a new home.

Mr Marsh had known of the affair for years. Mr Dunning's wife had also known the truth, but by 1982 had believed that the relationship was over.

Mr Fadipe said Mr Dunning disliked the Marshes' modest two-bedroomed cottage, Little Hawkesgrove in East Grinstead, Salisbury. He added: "Mrs Marsh will deny ever having had sex with Mr Dunning at Little Hawkesgrove, certainly while her husband was there".

Mr and Mrs Marsh subsequently bought a second house, Avonir, in Ashfield, Barton Stacey, near Winchester, with the aid of a £165,000 Lloyds Bank loan in February 1988.

Mr Fadipe said the couple would never have had the

means to buy the property without Mr Dunning's assurances that he would cover the loan. The only reason Mr Dunning had not taken out the loan in his own name was his fear that he might be discovered by his wife.

"Mr Dunning insisted that Mrs Marsh always bought the best of everything. When she bought some wine glasses, he complained because they were not Baccarat crystal", Mr Fadipe added.

Matters came to a head in July 1991 when Mr Dunning suffered a serious stroke and, save possibly on one occasion, Mrs Marsh had had no contact with him since.

The hearing continues.

Buy now, don't decay.

KINGFISHER

Approved by the British Dental Health Foundation.

You're never too busy to get a better mortgage.

"Up to £6,000 cashback and a 3% discount? I'll jump at that."

4.25% (4.4% APR)

DISCOUNTED RATE FOR 1 YEAR

With Cashback! Plus from Woolwich Direct, borrow up to 85% of our valuation and we'll reduce our rate by 3% for 12 months.

Plus we'll send you a cheque for 3% of the loan (up to £6,000)

on completion. Call us now for a personal quotation in minutes, quoting ref GUYD 12.3.96.

0645 75 75 75

8.30am - 9.00pm MON - FRI; 9.00am - 3.00pm SAT; 10.00am - 2.00pm SUN

Internet address: woolwich-direct@e-mail.com

WOOLWICH DIRECT

YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.

The Cashback Plus Mortgage is available to all new mortgage customers and existing Woolwich customers on the move. The rate is variable and the APR is variable and typical and calculated on the assumption that the discounted mortgage rate will apply for the full term of the loan. However, after the first year, the Society's prevailing standard variable mortgage rate will, in fact, apply. These terms apply only where a written offer of advance was issued on or after 5.3.96 and the mortgage completed by 31.3.96. Typical example: Based on an interest only loan, an interest rate of 4.25% APR (4.4% APR) that represents a discount of 3% off the Society's standard variable mortgage rate, currently 7.25% APR (7.5% APR) and a purchase price of £70,000, a couple taking out a mortgage of £32,000 over 25 years (where the amount of the advance is 70% of the Society's valuation of the property) would pay interest of £184.17 per month (gross £200 per month). Value of the £235.00 Application fee over 25 years (where the amount of the advance is 70% of the Society's valuation of the property) would pay interest of £184.17 per month (gross £200 per month). Total amount payable £107,751.00. 4.25% APR (4.4% APR). Solicitor's mortgage charges £100.00. Deeds Administration Fee payable on redemption £50.00 and a single repayment of capital of £32,000. Total amount payable £107,751.00. 4.25% APR. A first charge over your property will be required as security. For interest only loans, you are advised to arrange a suitable repayment vehicle to repay the capital at the end of the mortgage term. An indemnity policy, for which you will need to pay an arrangement fee, will be required where the mortgage exceeds the Society's normal maximum percentage advance of 75%. If the mortgage is either redeemed in full or in part or transferred to another scheme before the fourth anniversary of the date on which interest is first charged in respect of the mortgage, the value of the cashback you have received must be repaid in full and a redemption fee equivalent to the savings made as a result of the discount will be charged. The redemption fee will be subject to a maximum charge equivalent to 6 months' interest calculated at the rate payable at the time of repayment. The cashback may affect personal liability to Capital Gains Tax. All mortgages are subject to status, valuation and a minimum age of 18. A written quotation is available on request from Woolwich Direct, PO Box 800, Baldoon, Kent DA16 4LE. Woolwich Direct is a service provided by Woolwich Building Society which represents only the Woolwich Marketing Group, which is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority for life assurance and unit trust business. CFC 3



War games... a Puma helicopter on exercise at the range

Army loses battle over firing range

Martin Wainwright and David Fairhall

NATIONAL park authority yesterday threw out military plans to expand and develop an artillery and rocket-firing range on the slopes of the Cheviots at Otterburn in Northumberland and set up the prospect of a public inquiry showdown.

burn is the only UK range where the large M28 rocket can be fired tactically in safe surroundings.

The park authority argued that the concessions failed to improve environmental safeguards. The committee voted 21-4 against the plans after many Conservative councillors left the meeting.



Out of range... an exercise at the army's live firing exercise range at Otterburn, where expansion plans have been rejected

PHOTOGRAPHS MIKE SCOTT

Sinn Fein leader spares Clinton's blushes at glitzy New York bash as he treads fine line

Adams seeks Irish American show of faith

Ian Katz in New York

PRESIDENT Bill Clinton, Liam Neeson and Angelica Houston all turned up last night to the glitzy Irish American bash at New York's Plaza Hotel but one celebrity was notably by his absence.

The timing of Mr Adams's visit, sparing President Clinton the potential embarrassment of a public meeting, is an indication of the delicate line he will have to tread on what could be his most important trip to the United States since his first visit in 1994.

Mr Adams desperately needs a show of faith from both the Clinton administration and the powerful Irish American community to strengthen his hand in his dealings with the IRA hard men.

On the other, he cannot afford to embarrass President Clinton, who has already struck his political neck out by granting him a visa in the face of mounting calls for Mr Adams to be frozen out until the IRA restores its ceasefire.

"Obviously the backdrop to his visit is starkly different to what it was when he came here in triumph last year," said Ray O'Hanlon, editor of the New York-based Irish Echo.

With leading figures such as Senator Edward Kennedy seeking to distance themselves from Mr Adams following last month's bombings, the Sinn Fein leader's friends here are eager to show he still has the backing of most Irish Americans.

"Overwhelmingly Irish Americans, if they have any interest at all in what's going on, are going to stay with him," said Pete King, a New York Republican congressman close to Mr

Adams. "People see him as needing support now more than at any time in the last few years."

Mr Adams starts his trip at a disadvantage because he is barred under the terms of his visa from raising money. That will prevent him taking home the most tangible form of support.

His six-day tour will take in New York, Washington and Scranton, Pennsylvania, home of a large Irish American community.

In Washington, Mr Adams will meet a number of congressmen and Christopher Dodd, the influential Connecticut senator. The Clinton administration has not ruled out the possibility of a lower level meeting.

The most diplomatically hairy moment of Mr Adams's visit may come on

Thursday when he is scheduled to attend a dinner for the American Ireland Fund in Washington.

Among the other guests are the Irish prime minister, John Bruton, as well as the Northern Ireland economic minister, Baroness Denton, and Ulster Unionist leader David Trimble, none of whom will want to be caught in the same frame sipping champagne with Mr Adams.

The Sinn Fein leader is scheduled to spend St Patrick's Day in Pennsylvania but there is speculation over whether he will march in New York's massive parade on Saturday.

Taking part would offer him the stage for a show of support but would risk exposure to those angered by the ending of the ceasefire.

"It would be an interesting test to walk up Fifth Avenue in front of maybe a million people and count the jeers and count the boos," said Mr O'Hanlon.

Docklands balks at joining 'ring of steel' around the City

Duncan Campbell and James Meikle

PLANS to throw a "ring of steel" round the Isle of Dogs in East London after the Docklands bombing last month were given a mixed reception yesterday.

Discussions are under way to protect the area in the same way as the City, where cars are filmed by security cameras and armed police search vans and lorries at random.

London Docklands Development Corporation chief executive Eric Sorensen said yesterday: "The scheme is planned to act as a deterrent and to make businesses and residents of the area feel con-

fident that measures are in place to prevent a repeat of last month's bomb."

Rony O'Regan, of Tower Hamlets borough council, said that no new measures would be undertaken without consultation with the local population.

He added: "There is a civil liberties aspect to it. Very few people live in the City, so their ring of steel is a completely different ball game from having your picture taken by security cameras day in day out as you go to and from your home."

Bedsit flats and maisonettes damaged in the Canary Wharf explosion may have to be demolished. Twelve families have already been rehoused and people living in 40 bedsits are also being found new accommodation.

Residents of the Barkentine estate may press for demolition of the four neighbouring 22-storey tower blocks. But Tower Hamlets council said it was not seeking to replace the blocks.

Prince renews trust in youth

David Ward

THE Prince of Wales relaunched his charities in one body yesterday with a claim that Britain had to involve its rejected young people if the country's run-down urban areas were to be revived.

"We will never regenerate our inner cities until young people care about their communities and have a greater sense of citizenship," he told a conference in Manchester to launch the reconstructed Prince's Trust.

Unemployment, drug abuse, homelessness and under-achievement at school had barred many young people from playing their full part as citizens.

"We will never realise our full economic potential in this country until standards of education and training match those of our competitors."

The prince noted that 345,000 people aged between 16 and 25 were already resigned to unemployment, and that an estimated 100,000 unemployed school leavers had simply disappeared last year from employment, edu-

cation or social security records.

The Prince's Trust is seeking to offer more help. "Research has shown us two things," said a spokesman. "Young people are not as aware of us as we would like, and people are confused about what we do and how we are organised."

Four separate bodies — the Prince's Trust, the Prince's Youth Business Trust, the Prince's Trust Volunteers and the Prince of Wales's Committee — which have so far worked independently have been brought together in new premises in London and Cardiff.

"Under the single banner of the Prince's Trust we will now, I believe, be seen much more clearly as this country's leading organisation for enabling disadvantaged young people to reach their potential," Prince Charles told the 500 conference delegates.

The Prince's Trust, set up in 1976 to help disadvantaged young people, had applied for a grant from the Millennium Commission to promote study outside school to try to remedy under-performance by pupils.



Prince Charles at his charity relaunch PHOTOGRAPH DAVID GAID

Charles ensures his charities extend a helping hand

Vivek Chaudhary on the makings of a royal success

LAUNCHED in 1976 with a budget of £7,000, thanks to the fund-raising efforts of Eric Sykes and Sir Harry Secombe, the Prince's Trust has emerged as one of the largest charities in Britain aimed at helping disadvantaged youngsters.

This year the Prince's Trust, which comprises charities including Business in the Community and the Prince's Youth Business Trust, is expected to spend more than £24 million on its various projects. Around 4,000 businesses started by young people will

also be given grants. According to independent auditors, 80 per cent of the businesses established under the scheme still operate three years later and the scheme has emerged as the largest source of venture capital investing in young businesses in Britain.

Started in 1986, the Prince's Youth Business Trust has helped more than 27,000 youngsters set up their own business. An estimated 1,800 community groups and 50,000 individuals will also be given grants during the forthcoming financial year.

The Prince's Trust is aimed at helping young people aged between 14 and 25 and relies on 7,000 volunteers to liaise with them.

Its declared aim is to "help young people to succeed by

providing opportunities which they would otherwise not have."

Funding comes from private donors, large businesses, the European Union, local authorities and central government.

Tom Shebbeare, executive director of the Prince's Trust, said: "We have grown from a tiny organisation into one of the biggest charities in Britain. That's happened because no one does what we do as well. Our problem has been that young people don't know enough about the trusts and that's been a stumbling block to our development. We want to expand our volunteers programme and the prince is deeply involved in the work of the charities."

Prince's Trust is praised by fellow charities, some feel that until now it has been badly organised. One charity insider who worked closely with the Prince's Trust said: "There was a time when many donors felt that the Prince's Trust had a lack of focus and that its aims were too haphazard. There's also been rivalry between the different charities making up the trust. Rather than working towards one aim they've been competing over things like who can raise the most money. The result has been that the money has not always been getting through to the people who matter. The trust has achieved an awful lot and hopefully, this reorganisation will put an end to the problems it has had."

Woman 'starved in home of plenty'

A FORMER beauty queen starved to death at home on Christmas Day, even though the squalid council flat she shared with her husband and teenage son was well stocked with food, an inquest heard yesterday.

Kathleen Warburton, 54 — who weighed three stone 15lb — died on a filthy sofa from which she had not moved for six weeks, the inquest at Bristol was told.

Detective Sergeant David Jones, who went to the first floor flat in Ullswater Road, Bristol, on December 25 1994, said: "I could smell chicken roasting in the kitchen oven."

The mother of four, a former Miss West and model, was "skeletal," said Inspector Nigel Powell. She was found at home by her husband Keith, a 55-year-old sign-writer, who had last seen her the previous evening.

Pathologist Hugh White said Mrs Warburton died from bronchial pneumonia, starvation and neglect.

She was in an emaciated and filthy condition, but had no major organic disease. Dr White noted that Mrs Warburton's husband and 19-year-old son were living in the same house.

The possibility of severe neglect must be explored," he said. Det Sgt Jones said that in 1984, after a period of excessive drinking and tranquilliser addiction, Mrs Warburton became dependent on her husband and later confined herself to the house.

In 1993 her husband began an affair, and from the following January stayed at his lover's home until 11pm each night, a pattern which continued until his wife's death.

A doctor called in the district nurse after Mr Warburton telephoned in October 1994 to say he was unable to cope with his wife. Mrs Warburton's case was put into the care of Avon social services.

On December 8 1994 she refused a social worker's offer of a "cleaning blitz" and other help at home.

"But she did not rule out assistance forever," said Det Sgt Jones.

Gerald Russell, an eating disorder specialist, said Mrs Warburton had a history of emotional and psychiatric problems. She tended to lose weight when she was troubled or unwell.

After a stroke in 1987 there was a tendency to neglect herself and her flat.

The most important contributory cause of her death was severe malnutrition, said Professor Russell. She suffered from a "severe form of self-neglect," he told the jury of five women and three men.

"It is likely self-neglect contributed to a major way to her failure to eat adequately," he said.

PC Scott Perry said Mr Warburton told him he had tried to bathe his wife once, but she was in too much pain. The inquest continues today.

Ex-prison union chief jailed

A FORMER prison officers' union leader was jailed for two years yesterday for embezzling £285,000 paid as death benefit to one of his members.

At an earlier hearing William Goodall, aged 47, of Eskbank, Lothian, had admitted taking the money in 1993

when he was general secretary of the Scottish Prison Officers' Association.

Yesterday at Edinburgh High Court Sheriff John Horsburgh, QC, refused a defence plea to sentence Goodall to community service which would be inadequate for "a serious breach of trust".

Your mum is expecting.

Rustic Basket Arrangement at around £23.95

Mother's Day Arrangement at around £27.50

Harlequin Basket at around £16.95/£19.95

Open Bouquet at around £19.95

Mother's Day is next Sunday. Call Free 24 hrs on 0500 434343

PRICES APPLY FROM 1ST TO 31ST MARCH 1996 ALMOST ANYWHERE IN THE UK. REPUBLIC OF IRELAND AND CHANNEL ISLANDS AND INCLUDE VAT AND LOCAL DELIVERY WITHIN AN INTERFLORA FLORETT'S LOCAL DELIVERY AREA. STANDARD RELAY ORDERS COST JUST £2.99 EXTRA PER £3.30 AVAILABLE AT PARTICIPATING OUTLETS IN SOME CASES EXTRA CHARGES MAY APPLY. CONTENT AND COLOUR MAY VARY DEPENDING ON BEST AVAILABLE LOCALLY. AS SHOWN HERE.

In river

I for h

over

Buy now don't dec

6 WORLD NEWS

US reinforces naval fleet in Taiwanese waters

Martin Walker in Washington and Andrew Higgins in Quemy

The White House tried last night to cool the crisis triggered by its dispatch of a second aircraft carrier task force to Taiwan...

being "tested by Beijing" in an election year. As the People's Liberation Army (PLA) prepared for large-scale exercises today...

month. A second, led by the modern carrier Nimitz, with 110 aircraft, is expected to reach the South China Sea by the end of the week...

Though shorn of US diplomatic recognition and troops since 1979, Taiwan is a well-armed and wealthy nation of 21 million and remains effectively under Washington's security umbrella in Asia.

The US maintains nearly 100,000 troops in the region, based in Japan and South Korea, the only serious military counterweight to an increasing powerful and assertive China.

Clinton has been forced to draw a military line he would rather have left blurred

Taiwan reacted coolly, saying this would only encourage Beijing to use military intimidation again and make it "ask for more" later.

and could in theory destroy any Chinese missiles threatening Taiwan. The two task forces, along with US submarines now on station off Taiwan, carry more than 200 Tomahawk cruise missiles, as well as two air wings.

One China too many, page 9

China fears the island will quietly slip away

John Gittings

CHINA has never renounced the right to use force against Taiwan - which it regards as an internal affair. Sino-US talks in the 1950s foundered because the US insisted on renunciation.

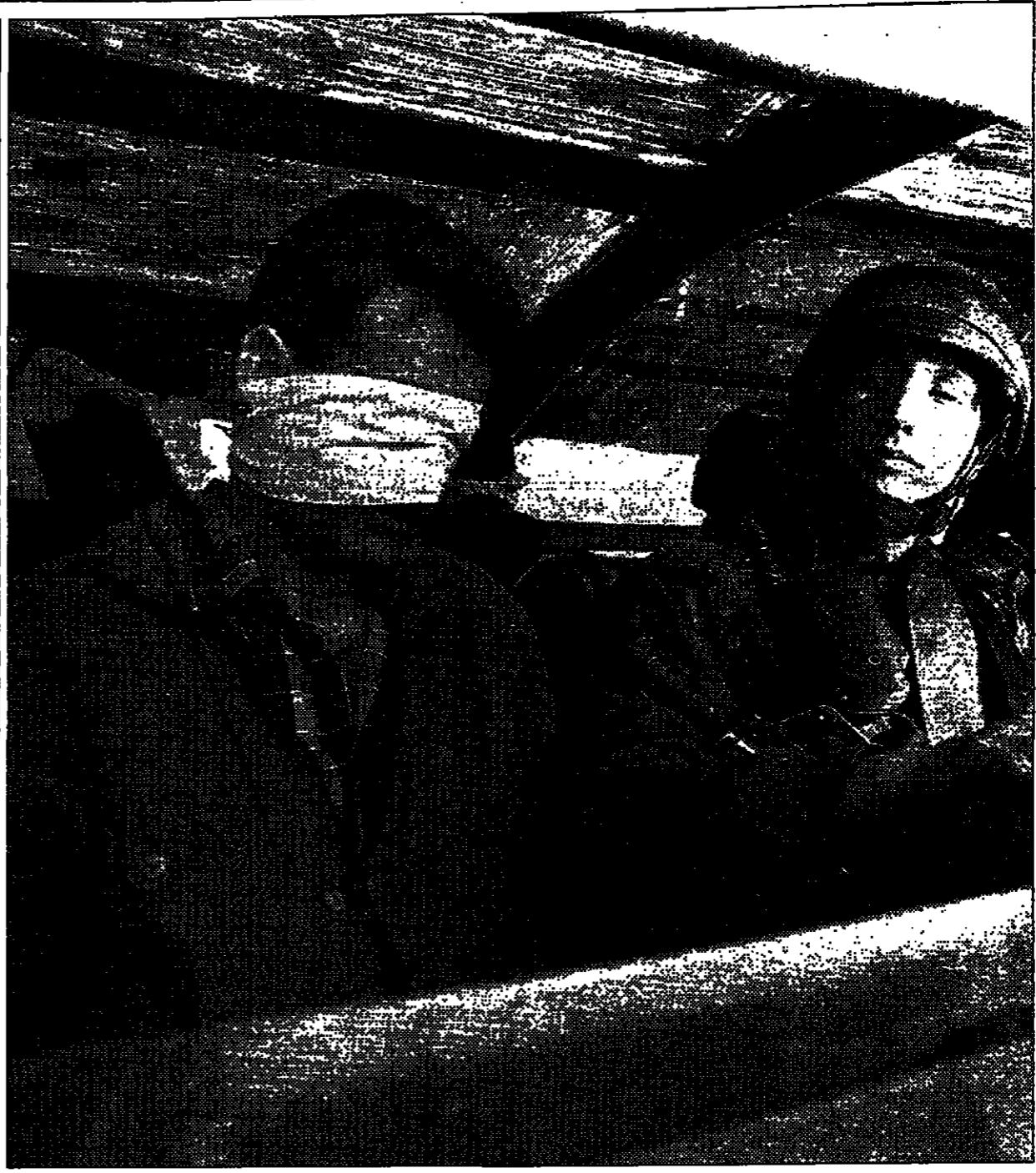
Japan sets softly, softly course in a sea of trouble

Nicholas Kristof in Tokyo

EAST ASIAN countries are deeply concerned about the Chinese missile tests near Taiwan, but they are avoiding any strong criticism for fear of offending China.

time rule by Japan with nostalgia rather than loathing. Taiwan's president, Lee Teng-hui, like many other Taiwanese, speaks perfect Japanese, which he learned before Mandarin Chinese.

would be easy to take militarily, and their capture could be presented by Beijing as a victory over Japan, to drum up nationalist support.



Prisoner of peace... An Israeli soldier sits with a man arrested in a raid on a Palestinian village

Anti-terrorist summit points to Middle East fault lines

Derek Brown in Jerusalem

TOMORROW'S international summit meeting in Egypt, which the United States had hoped would be a gesture of global solidarity in the face of anti-Israel terrorism, is likely to be little more than a public display of the continuing bitter disputes of the Middle East.

campaign, in which continued Jewish support could be vital. Egypt's president, Hosni Mubarak, who is jointly hosting the meeting with Mr Clinton, underlined the differing priorities of the summiters by sharply altering the thrust of his own comments.

by John Major, Jacques Chirac of France, Helmut Kohl of Germany, John Bruton of Ireland, Lamberto Dini of Italy, Felipe Gonzalez of Spain, and Gro Harlem Brundtland of Norway.

ting back at the Islamist militants and to urge him to do more. For Mr Arafat, it will offer another chance to appeal for aid. Israel's blockade of the Palestinians in the wake of the bombings has led to an alarming shortage of food and medicines.

Washington had backed Chiang in the Chinese civil war, and now built him up as part of the policy of containing China. For many years the US did not rule out the possibility of a Nationalist return to the mainland.

One of the target zones is less than 40 miles from the Japanese island of Yonaguni, nearly as close as it is to Taiwan. But the Japanese government is playing down its worries and taking a low-key stand.

Japan controls a group of uninhabited islets, known as the Senkaku islands in Japanese and the Diaoyu islands in Chinese, which are also claimed by China and Taiwan.

Some military experts fear that China might try to seize a Taiwan-claimed island as a show of force. The Senkakus would be easy to take militarily, and their capture could be presented by Beijing as a victory over Japan, to drum up nationalist support.



Australia's new PM refuses to give allegiance to Charles

Agencies in Sydney

AUSTRALIA'S new conservative prime minister, John Howard, a declared monarchist, declined to swear allegiance to the Queen when he took office yesterday.

Police tum tables on Karachi terror groups

The bullet reigns in Pakistan capital, writes Suzanne Goldenberg

THE TRAIL of blood started in the corner of a room behind a television set where one of Pakistan's most wanted men cowered. Paramilitary forces shot him dead in front of his wife and baby, then dragged his corpse through the hallway and into the road.

near the doorstep of his home sought his fate. "Tell me, tell me, how they could have been killed in an encounter," his sister said.

bloodletting - it has been the turn of MQM militants to die. Karachi's police chief, Muhammad Shoaib Suddle, said more than 1,000 had been put out of action.

News in brief

Rao survives MPs' threat: The Indian prime minister, P. V. Narasimha Rao, survived an opposition move yesterday when the Speaker of the lower house, Shivraj Patil, dismissed their petition.

Papers suspended: Gambia's seven independent newspapers have suspended publication pending approval from the military government under new conditions which include a \$10,000 bond, editors said yesterday. - Reuters.

Joint exercises: Ukraine and Germany began their first joint military exercises near Dnipropetrovsk, south of Kiev, yesterday under Nato's Partnership for Peace programme. - AP.

Vice crackdown: Vienna is to crack down on illegal prostitution with tougher laws to combat the spread of venereal disease, a city councillor, Johann Hatzl, said. Prostitution is legal in Austria and prostitutes must register with the state and pay taxes. - Reuters.

Treatment for Lee: Singapore's patriarch, Lee Kuan Yew, aged 72, will undergo heart treatment this week for the second time in three months, state television said. - Reuters.

Car insurance over £300? Call Admiral now 0800 600 800

Handwritten signature or scribble at the bottom of the page.

Chris McGreal reports on the spinal meningitis epidemic that has killed 3,000 in northern Nigeria

Death takes a costly minibus

WUDIL Cottage Hospital is just 10 miles from Maimuna Suleiman's village. Yet it was days after her violent coughs offered the first hint of potential doom that the 4-year-old Nigerian girl was finally carried into the one place that could save her.

Maimuna's mother, Hadiza, took her first to Garko village dispensary, but no one there recognised the child's condition. Only when she returned the next day did the nurse refer her to the cottage hospital. But it was a Friday, the holy day in Islamic northern Nigeria. And then came the weekend. So Hadiza waited.

"I didn't think the hospital would be open," she said. "All the government offices are closed at the weekend."

On Monday Hadiza finally lifted her rapidly deteriorat-

ing daughter and went in search of transport. That proved another obstacle. Buses can be hard to find and a fuel scarcity has doubled the price of a journey. Hadiza had to bargain to get a fare she could afford.

By the time she and Maimuna finally joined the queue at Wudil Cottage Hospital, a crop of spartan concrete bungalows, her child was on the brink of death. The doctor recognised the illness immediately. Another case in the spinal meningitis outbreak that is sweeping northern Nigeria. So far, the disease has claimed about 3,000 lives. Almost all of them are children who die within days of contracting the disease. Maimuna had the added complication of gastro-enteritis and the nurse tending her, Sa'el Mohammed, said some children never make it to the

hospital because transport is difficult to find in rural areas, and expensive. Other families fear they do not have the money to pay the hospital, not knowing that treatment is free now that foreign donations of drugs are arriving.

"A lot of people are dying

propped up on the back of motorbike taxis, or half a dozen at a time laid out in minibuses.

Maimuna's name is registered in the pages of meningitis admissions since January. On Saturday Wudil Cottage Hospital was treating 99 cases

The hospital was swamped long before Maimuna arrived. She was put in a makeshift ward in what had been an open shed — now protected with wicker mats stretched around the outside. Even that is not enough to meet demand. A dozen patients lie outside.

Mr Mohammed and the five other nurses on duty cannot keep up with the demand, any more than the only doctor, who was sent by the government of neighbouring Niger. At night there is no doctor at all. Emergency care is left to the nurses.

But no one is abandoned. All arrive with some relative carrying essential utensils — pots, kettles and prayer mats — who will also go in search of food.

Anxious relatives spend their days fanning patients in an effort to ease the searing,

'A lot of people are dying along the road because of problems with transport'

along the road before they get here because of the complications with transport," Mr Mohammed said. "They are coming from as far as 30 miles away. If they have money they charter any vehicle to get here. But some just don't make it. They just don't have the money and they leave it too late."

Patients have arrived

— nearly twice the number of just two days earlier. There is also gastro-enteritis, which some fear may really be cholera, and scattered cases of measles, which Wudil has no medicines to combat.

Each page of the register includes names marked "died on admission". Eighteen deaths have been recorded at the cottage hospital alone.

Americans stay quiet about Bosnia pull-out

European concern about the timetable for withdrawal of Nato is being stifled, reports David Fairhall

NATO's loudly declared determination to pull out of Bosnia at the end of the year is becoming a little muffled.

While the official policy remains unchanged — that the 60,000-strong peace implementation force I-For will stay for 52 weeks and not a day longer — there is a growing private acceptance that some sort of follow-on force may be needed to protect the fragile settlement.

In Brussels, military planners are already working on alternative "exit strategies". But public discussion is taboo. Partly this is in deference to Washington, where it is a presidential imperative in election year that US troops are on their way home before Christmas.

Partly it is a fear that talk of staying on beyond the Dayton accord deadline will become self-fulfilling.

One diplomat said it reminded him of a phrase the French once used about the sensitive question of Alsace-Lorraine: "Y'en parlez jamais" (Always think about it, never talk about it).

The I-For commander, US Admiral Leighton Smith, is prepared to discuss almost any other aspect of the operation. Interviewed in London last week, he conceded that there might be a follow-on force, but emphasised that the decision was not his. As a military man, he would merely make a neutral observation: "When the time is right."

Other Nato officials repeat the agreed mantra: "In together, stay together, leave together." Privately, however, they admit that cracks have appeared in the diplomatic facade. The British, particularly, do not have the Americans' confidence that it will be sensible to pull the entire force out. "Having put so much into Bosnia, we don't want to throw it away," one source said.

And yet there are grim memories in London of trying to make the United Nations peacekeeping operation work without Washington's support and without its troops committed on the ground.

"This is a powerful argument for the Europeans to

leave when the Americans decide to go. But there is interest, especially in Paris, in the idea of using the Western European Union to sponsor a follow-on force.

This would be the first test of the WEU's developing military structure, which the British government is pledged to strengthen during its current presidency. It would also make use of arrangements for the European organisation to employ Nato's (often American) assets, such as intelligence satellites and heavy transport aircraft.

While the debate continues, the Nato-led I-For is putting together, if not an alternative withdrawal plan, then at least a timetable for deciding on it. British commanders reach a milestone in June, when the six-monthly rotation of their forces provides an opportunity to make structural changes.

Also in June, Nato foreign ministers meet in Berlin to

assess progress in crucial areas such as civilian reconstruction, elections, and consolidation of the suspect Croat Federation.

I-For has not decided how to support the elections, which are promised between June and mid-September, but with thousands of polling points the allies are agreed that "a commanding presence" will be required at least until the elections are over.

As autumn sets in, Brussels will have to choose between several withdrawal options, which by then will come with military plans attached. The underlying calculation is that I-For needs 100 days to complete the pull-out. If the deadline is still Christmas, the first columns must be on the move by October.

For the moment, Admiral Smith declares himself satisfied with the first phase of the I-For operation, but expresses concern about the fragility of the Croat-Muslim federation. He also urges the development of a civilian infrastructure to replace I-For.

In Brussels there are doubts whether that can be achieved by the deadline. Equally, there is a strong desire to make a clean break if possible. One source summed up the mood: "Either we succeed and we go, or we fail and we go."

Officials admit that cracks have appeared in the diplomatic facade



Commanding sights... Workers enjoy the view yesterday from the mouth of the Merlion statue, combining a mermaid with a lion, being built on the resort island of Sentosa, Singapore. It is due to open next month. PHOTOGRAPH: JONATHAN DRAKE

Panic Attacks?

(Special) If you suffer panic attacks or general anxiety that cause symptoms such as dizziness or feeling faint, rapid heartbeat, feelings of unreality, fear of losing control or dying, shortness of breath, sweating, nausea or upset stomach, you need to get a copy of the new book *How to Overcome Anxieties, Panic Attacks & Phobias*.

The book contains the latest information on panic and general anxiety disorders — what causes problems, how best to treat the problem, and how to protect yourself from troublesome panic and anxiety distress.

The book gives you specific facts on the latest, natural, alternative and medical remedies that can bring prompt and lasting relief. You'll discover what you can do to stop panic attacks and anxiety, the basic cause of the problem, and what to avoid at all costs.

The book covers actual case histories of people who suffered panic and general anxiety problems and how they were able to overcome their problems.

Many people are putting up with troublesome panic attacks, general anxiety and phobias because they are unaware of new treatments and the welcome relief that is now available.

Get all the facts. To order your copy of *How to Overcome Anxieties, Panic Attacks & Phobias* send your name, address and cheque or Visa/Access with payment (cheque or Visa/Access with expiry date) of £9.95 which includes postage and handling to Carol Platt Dept. 04455, Alresford, Hants, RG24 8AP, or telephone their 24 hour order line on 01206 825600 (quoting reference 04455). Allow up to 14 days for delivery. You may return the book any time within three months for a full refund if not satisfied.

One killed as motorcycle gang feud flares into shooting war

Greg Molvor in Stockholm

SCANDINAVIAN police said yesterday they were bracing themselves for a "war" between feuding motorcycle gangs after one man died and four were wounded in gun battles at Copenhagen and Oslo airports between rival Hells Angels and Bandidos.

The shooting incidents, which caused panic among passengers and sparked an international police alert, is the most serious outbreak of violence yet in an escalating conflict between the gangs.

Last week three Bandidos were injured in an exchange of fire with Hells Angels in the Swedish town of Helsingborg. The day before a Hells Angels member escaped death after discovering a bomb under his car bonnet.

Sunday's victims were all members of the Bandidos, which established itself as rivals to the Hells Angels in Scandinavia two years ago. The men, who were returning from a weekend

convention in Helsinki, were apparently shot with automatic weapons by Hells Angels who escaped by car.

Oslo police charged a Norwegian Hells Angel with attempted murder yesterday and held a further three for questioning. Danish police made about 30 arrests and Swedish police set up a 20-man squad to monitor the gangs' activities.

"I do not believe the war will stop here. There are reasons to believe there will some kind of retribution, but we don't know what," said a Swedish detective superintendent, Gunnar Elner.

Hells Angels and Bandidos in Scandinavia take their orders from parent organisations in Texas and California respectively. There, distance reduces the risks of confrontation, but in Scandinavia the geographical proximity increases tensions.

Both gangs have about 100 members in the region, with headquarters in southern Sweden, Copenhagen, Oslo and Helsinki.

Corsican nationalists take violence to Paris with attack

Alex Duval Smith in Paris

THE bloody 20-year campaign of Corsican nationalist violence yesterday appeared to be spreading to mainland France with news that the Parisian home of an investigative journalist had come under machine-gun fire.

In the first mainland guerrilla attack by Corsican nationalists, Guy Benhamou, a journalist for the daily paper *Liberation*, escaped unhurt when his house was riddled with bullets last Friday evening.

Responsibility was not claimed, but police said the attack bore the hallmarks of Corsican nationalists. Mr Benhamou, the newspaper's Corsica specialist, has recently revealed links between the French government and hardline elements on the Mediterranean island.

Sources feared the attack could be the first in a series responding to new, divisive policies by the French government to control violence. Attacks linked to three armed groups have claimed more than 40 lives on the island in the last year and cost more than Fr300 million (£40 million) in property damage this year alone.

The French interior minister, Jean-Louis Debré, is accused by peace groups on the island of having begun talks with the most violent armed faction, the Historic Wing of the Corsican National Liberation Front (FLNC-Canal Historique). Critics say Mr Debré has enlisted the FN-CH to "eliminate" other nationalist groups on the island.

Jo Sisti, a councillor representing the political wing of the more moderate Accolta Nazionale Corsa in Corsica's regional assembly, said: "The state is leaning on the Historic Wing to liquidate the Corsican nationalist movement. What will emerge is a legitimised Historic Wing, set up to preserve its own interests and those of President Jacques Chirac's Rally for the Republic party. We will always resist this mafia approach," said Mr Sisti.

A member of his party's armed wing, Resistanza, escaped a machine-gun attack on the island last Thursday.

News in brief

Iraq blocks UN inspection of site

IRAQ blocked United Nations inspectors from examining a site near Baghdad yesterday, apparently in fear that they might uncover more evidence of plans for weapons of mass destruction.

The incident followed a similar one last Friday and came as Iraq and the UN began new talks on a deal to buy food in exchange for limited oil sales.

"We think the UN inspectors are looking in the right places — where the Iraqis have hidden damaging material," a Foreign Office official said. "They're hitting the right buttons." Previous disclosures badly damaged Iraqi hopes for a lifting of sanctions.

The food-for-oil talks centre on a UN offer last April to allow Iraq to sell \$1 billion worth of oil every 90 days to buy humanitarian goods and alleviate the effects of sanctions. — *Ian Black.*

23 police die in Tiger ambush

A 300-STRONG force of Tamil Tiger rebels killed 23 police, including 15 commandos, yesterday after luring them out of their post in eastern Sri Lanka, security sources said. It was the highest death toll in weeks of skirmishes.

The police were acting on information that a large group of Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) had gathered for an attack on a village in eastern Batticaloa district. After arriving at an open space between two paddy fields, they were ambushed, army sources said.

Two commando inspectors and a sub-inspector were among the dead. Twelve constables, seven reserve constables and a reserve sub-inspector were also killed and four police were wounded. The rebels lost 20 fighters, the sources said. — *Reuters, Colombo.*

Drunk Russians sell tank

RUSSIAN troops sold a tank and armoured combat vehicle to Chechen rebels after a drinking binge, Interfax news agency said yesterday. The soldiers, belonging to the 106th motor-rifle division based in the east of Chechnya, parted with the heavy equipment for \$6,000 after getting drunk with rebels loyal to the separatist leader Dzhokhar Dudayev, the agency said.

Interfax, quoting a military counter-intelligence official for the report, said an investigation was under way. — *Reuters, Moscow.*

Former presidents go on trial

BOODED from the public gallery and taunted with a cry of "sons of bitches", two former South Korean presidents appeared side-by-side in a Seoul court yesterday to face charges of mutiny and sedition.

Chun Doo Hwan and Roh Tae-woo, former generals, face the death sentence if convicted. They appeared in court with 14 other former senior military officers.

Mr Chun is accused of plotting for a 1979 coup that gave him and his predecessor, Park Chung-hee, a presidency for 13 years from 1980 to 1988. Mr Roh is charged with aiding Mr Chun stage the putsch that followed the assassination of the strongman Park Chung-hee. The two have also been indicted for sedition in connection with a 1980 army massacre of pro-democracy demonstrators.

Dozens of protesters screaming obscenities and demanding heavy punishment scuffled with police outside. — *Reuters, Seoul.*

Andean bloc formed

FIVE Latin American presidents have approved the creation of an Andean Community economic bloc to replace the 29-year-old Andean Pact trade group. They said the new bloc, comprising Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela, would seek economic and political harmony along the lines of the European Union.

"We agreed to take a great leap forward to build from the Andean Pact a superior entity, the Andean Community," President Alberto Fujimori of Peru said after the summit. — *Reuters, Trujillo, Peru.*

Wanted Rwandan arrested

CAMEROON has arrested the late Rwandan president Juvenal Habyarimana's chief of presidential staff, who is wanted by the UN war crimes tribunal in The Hague.

Colonel Theoneste Bagosora is wanted by the tribunal in connection with the April 1994 deaths of 10 Belgian soldiers protecting the former Rwandan prime minister Agathe Uwilingiyimana.

The state prosecutor's office, which ordered the arrest, declined to comment on what would happen to Col Bagosora, who has been in Cameroon since September 1995.

The war crimes tribunal has so far indicted 10 Rwandans in connection with the deaths of up to a million Tutsis and moderate Hutus in the genocide after Habyarimana's plane was shot down in April 1994. — *Reuters, Yaounde.*

Cougars on the streets

COUGARS still roaming rural parts of California have crept into the suburbs to become the centre of controversy between hunters and environmentalists.

The deadly big cats — also called pumas or mountain lion — attacked and killed two women joggers in 1994, carried off people's cats, and ate a poodle in a mountain village. They have also been seen strolling through a car park and suburban gardens in San Diego.

Cougars, numbering up to 10,000 in California, have been protected since 1990. Then voters overwhelmingly passed a state referendum decreasing that the animals could be killed only if they attacked or it could be proved they were menacing humans, pets or livestock. By 1994 game wardens had shot 120, an annual kill that has risen by about eight a year since the referendum.

Now another proposition is on the ballot later this month which would permit licensed sportsmen to cull the animals. However, environmentalists argue that the measure comes from trophy hunters and gun owners eager to put cougar heads over their fireplaces. — *Christopher Reed, Los Angeles.*

'Goya' sparks detective hunt

THE discovery of a religious painting in Franco's torture chambers has prompted a detective hunt to establish its origins. Workmen stumbled on it, covered in dust, in a locked basement room of a palazzo in the Puerta del Sol which was the headquarters of Franco's secret police.

Experts initially attributed it to Goya. "It's a corker of a Goya," said José María Luzón, director of the Prado museum, when the canvas, which shows saints pleading for the souls in purgatory, was unveiled.

"It is a particularly significant find and could not have come at a better time in the run-up to celebrations of the 250th anniversary of Goya's birth this year," said the regional president, Alberto Ruiz Gallardón, adding that there was no doubt about its authenticity.

But even though the painting is signed by Goya, rival experts disagreed. "Everyone has got carried away," said Alfonso Pérez Sánchez, a former director of the Prado, who argued that the painting was more likely to be the work of a lesser known artist, Salvador Maella.

A large Goya showing a religious scene would be worth about 2,000 million pesetas (\$11 million), 200 times the amount a Maella would fetch. — *Adela Gooch, Madrid.*

The Guardian

Tuesday March 12 1996
Edition Number 46,498
119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER
Fax No. 0171-837 4530
E-mail: letters@guardian.co.uk
Website: http://www.guardian.co.uk

A lifeline for small firms

But they need macro-economic help even more

WHILE the shares of large companies were in free fall all over the world yesterday, the stock of small companies in Britain rose as the Prime Minister declared them a zone of urgent priority for reform. Small businesses, he said, were not some minority interest but the backbone of the economy and the main source of future jobs. At a London conference he unveiled measures — from curbing late payment of bills to pledges to abolish inheritance and capital gains tax — which were greeted as a "bullseye" by the CBI.

It is easy to be cynical because yesterday's measures were announced 17 years after the Government took office and shortly before a general election. Inevitably they become entangled with the Government's desperate desire not to cede more of the small business vote to the Liberal Democrats and a rejuvenated Labour Party. But on the central issue — the vital importance of small firms — Mr Major is dead right. At a time when large manufacturing companies are planning to shed yet more labour and when the job-generating ability of service industries is fading, it is of paramount importance to establish more small firms and — just as important — to ensure that small ones make the transition to bigger ones. Many small companies would love to have the luxury of being big enough to watch with equanimity when their shares fall by billions as happened yesterday. The shake-out in world stock markets was triggered by news that the US created 705,000 new jobs in a single month. That compares with 128,000 in the UK in a whole year (of which only 30,000 were in manufacturing). The markets fell because they took this news as evidence that the US recovery was too strong, even though many of the same people were worried that the recovery was too weak barely weeks ago.

John Major dropped from yesterday's

speech any reference to the Government's reported plans to abolish basic workers' rights in small business, and to make it even easier than it is already to fire people. Thank goodness too. It is one thing to strip red tape from small companies, quite another to encourage them to treat their employees like cattle. Small businesses thrive best if they are part of an implicit contract which treats customers and employees as stakeholders in the company. By all means sweep away unnecessary procedures, legislate against late payment of bills and streamline taxation, but small companies must realise that they too have duties to fulfill in return — including paying over their just share of taxation. It is their own interest to contribute to the financing of education, health and employment on which their own long-term future depends.

Government should remember that the best way it can assist small firms is by creating a stable macro-economic environment. Small businesses have suffered disproportionately and avoidably from too unnecessarily steep recessions at the start and the end of the eighties. Interest rates (and the value of the pound) were driven up to absurdly high levels, bankrupting in the process tens of thousands of small firms which could have survived in less demanding circumstances. The punitive levels of interest — and a reluctance to pay bills on time — created a situation in which linked companies went down like a line of dominoes. This is why the Government lost so many votes among normally loyal small business people. What matters now is not yesterday's charter but whether a newly elected government, Labour or Conservative, will give the small business sector the continuing priority it deserves once the election is out of the way. Recent experience is not encouraging.

The new age of grammar schools

And pigs might fly and rivers might one day run uphill...

SERIOUS policy-making is over. An election approaches. It is time for gimmicks. Indeed, it is time to take policy-making out of the hands of cabinet ministers and their departments who are supposed to be responsible for administering services and place it in the hands of unknown political acolytes in Downing Street's policy unit. And so it was that the mouthpiece of Central Conservative Office — the Sunday Express — reported a "dramatic" Tory move for a new wave of grammar schools in scores of towns across the country with the Times and Telegraph following suit by making the proposal their main story yesterday. The Prime Minister is reported to be ready to make the plan the highlight of the next Tory election manifesto — convinced new ideas on education are the key to winning the next election.

So will it happen? No. If ever a proposal looked ready to win the Colander Cup for the poorest thought out policy of the year, this grammar gimmick looks well placed. The idea is that parents will get together with local businesses to create a new generation of grammars. In some cities the new schools would take over "failed" comprehensives and in others new ones would be built — to spare the Government from the initial multi-million pound construction costs. Now think of the implications. Who would organise the parents? How would parental demand be measured? Why should local businesses put up money when 77 of the

100 biggest firms approached by ministers in booming 1987 turned down the idea of funding an earlier pre-election gimmick: 20 city technology colleges with the remit of becoming "beacons of excellence"?

Just suppose new grammars did emerge in every town. What would happen then? Presumably, where they took over from "failed" comprehensives, new grammars would proceed to stabilise remaining comprehensive burning some of them into sink schools as better pupils were siphoned off. Where new schools were built, eagle-eyed Audit Commission inspectors would have a field day asking why new schools were being built when there were almost one million surplus school places. Parliament's watchdog on public expenditure would want to know who thought private sector built schools would save money. Meanwhile, the 80 per cent of parents who could not get their children into the new grammars would be in revolt.

No wonder the Education Secretary is resisting the idea. The last thing our school system needs now — after a decade of upheaval and change — is more upheaval. Ministers were supposed to have accepted the plea from Sir Ron Dearing, the man who brought peace back to the classroom, for a period of stability. Last Friday, Labour was 37 per cent ahead of the Tories in Gallup's survey of public credibility on education. Gimmicks won't close this gap.

Balliol and Dr Flick's endowment

The college is right to accept the money for a Professorship

ONLY one thing exceeds the readiness of the world's wealthiest industrialists to give their money to Oxbridge colleges, and that is the eagerness of those same colleges to accept it from them. The colleges have always depended upon the generosity of the rich to maintain them in the style to which they are accustomed and, the world being what it is, it is not surprising that some bequests come from more morally questionable sources than others.

There must have been a time, for example, when the huge generosity of Cecil Rhodes and Alfred Beit towards the university could have been a source of serious moral embarrassment to Oxford. There was, without doubt, African blood on these massive bequests, however equitably they have subsequently been spent. With the passing of the years these arguments have become less powerful and the educational usefulness of the bequests more obvious.

These arguments have now resurfaced in the debate as to whether Balliol College should accept money from the Flick family to endow a chair in European Thought. Those who oppose the endowment say, correctly, that the Flicks were among the most prominent employers of slave labour during the Third Reich. Those who support it say, equally correctly, that 50 years have passed and that the sins of the fathers should not be visited upon their sons.

Every endowment raises questions of this kind. The purpose of such money can never be divorced from its source, a point which beneficiaries should always carefully assess. It is beyond doubt that the Flick family has a very guilty past. But they also have an entirely honourable present and it is hard to see how a society which places no restrictions on Mercedes-Benz cars can logically object to the family's charitable bequests.



Letters to the Editor

That business of workers' rights

House of charades

CLEARLY the Government is now considering removing the employment rights of 10 million of our fellow citizens employed by small businesses (Leader, March 9). Their hesitation has doubtless to do with their small majority and the proximity of a general election.

However, it will be recalled that the Government did not hesitate in removing the rights of the lowest paid to minimum wages fixed by the statutory Wages Councils, nor in removing from all workers the host of other employment rights, achieved by the Employment Rights Act of 1996. Indeed the Government boasts of the fact that its citizens are the worst protected employees in Europe: "The UK has the least onerous labour regulations in any western industrialised state," says the *Poverty and Inequality in the UK* (1995).

Employees in the UK already work longer hours, for less pay and with fewer employment rights than workers in any western industrialised state. Inequality in the UK have

grown at a faster rate than any other European country. Deregulation of the labour market, coupled with extensive policies of privatisation, encourage bad employers to compete on the basis of cutting costs. Increasingly, these cuts are made by reducing staff, reducing training, restricting employment rights and cutting back on pay and conditions. Removing the limited standards that remain encourages this downward spiral and does nothing to create jobs.

Small businesses (and their employees) would be better assisted by developing a floor of employment rights based on internationally agreed standards below which no worker or job-seeker could be forced to go. Companies wanting to develop long term investment and recruitment policies in the knowledge that their efforts will not be undermined by rogue employers surviving by undercutting minimum standards.

In slashing employees' rights in the past, the Government has been routinely con-

demned for breach of its international legal obligations by the International Labour Organisation and by the European Court of Justice. If it removes all employment rights from employees in small firms it will breach yet more European Directives, ILO Conventions and the European Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms.

John Heady QC, Chairperson, Carolyn Jones, Director, Institute of Employment Rights, 180 Falcon Road, London SW11 2LN.

IT strikes as a little rich that Michael Heseltine should decide that the best way to give impetus to small businesses is to cut employment rights rather than, say, to encourage quicker payment of debts owed to ease cash flows.

Nonetheless it may open up a much needed debate on the role of labour rights as the right of every worker to be free from insidious and

demeaning discrimination and from dismissal at the whim of an employer is surely as much a human right as the right to practice one's religion of choice or freely to express one's views, all jointly integral to personal existence and development. That the Cabinet rift should come in the wake of the Europe-ASEAN talks adds all the more to the irony.

Practically, it seems unlikely that the proposals would have created more jobs; more that it would have created a larger lumpen proletariat from which employers could choose workers effectively on daily unsecured contracts, sacking at will but never actually increasing the sum total of jobs within the economy. Which MD would want to expand past 20 employees with the knock-on effects and why would an employee choose (or rather be forced to choose) such an employer, forgoing all protection?

David Mead, University College Gower Street, London WC1E 6BT.

JOHN Cole's lament for the dearth of serious coverage of Parliamentary debates (Arena, March 4) underestimates the public's disdain for Parliamentary politics, and its language of leaks, embarrassment, denials and the simple arithmetic of victory or defeat as a substitute for real accountability. To the rest of us, the acres of space wasted reporting these games is like fiddling while Rome burns, as we watch the unnecessary death of our towns, public transport, and ill relatives for whom there are no beds.

Political reporters feed the illusion that narrow victories or defeats mean something. They seem trapped in an episode of *The House of Cards* — the UK equivalent of the Washington "inside the beltway" syndrome — that blinds politicians and reporters to the importance of wider issues than the next morning's headlines. But they could refuse to accept soundbites and jockeying for position within a party as "news".

If Ministers and reporters saw the repercussions of politics in relation to its real impact on our lives, on our high streets, and on the choices open to us about where to live, travel, work, and send our children to school, issues like the privatisation of the railways would be today's poll tax, galvanising the nation to insist on a coherent transport policy, not languishing somewhere down the political agenda behind the latest Westminster gossip. Tony Blair says he wants to raise the tone of political debate. But with an election ahead, will his ministers and the media have the courage to allow him to do so?

Roger Graef, 71 Westbourne Park Villas, London W2 9EB.

Unwin undead

MICHAEL WHITE'S reference (Sketch, March 11) to the "undead" in a typist's style was an unfortunate pre-emption or "jumpy gunload" of Professor Stanley Unwin's demise. In fact, I had the pleasure of lunching with the professor today (burpy-pardon) and an angry that, at the age of 84, he is as creative as ever. He took part recently in a TV series for Channel 4 and is presently considering an offer to make his first CD. So please squirm it from the coffin-thorax if you would! Michael Poinson, 11 Kings Court, London SW19 9QP.

Nelson's column

PRESIDENT Mandela cannot win. If he delegates, he will be criticised for losing his grip. Yet when he does his job as the executive President he is, we have David Beresford (South Africa's old hand) writing in *the Observer* (March 8) suggesting he is "developing in his advancing years a taste for power..." and that "his dominance of public life could stunt the embryonic political system."

President Mandela is not a tit-for-tat president. He is hands-on as necessary. His record, reputation and actions belie any thought that he is power-seeking. His pointed interventions are the more necessary in view of the tricky challenges faced in transforming South Africa from apartheid to democracy.

He is undoubtedly one of the fittest septuagenarians on political records. The "taste for power" tag plays on a particular northern hemisphere phobia that the Guardian knows all about the superior belief, nurtured in lesser papers, that African leaders are "back to the classroom," for a period of stability. Last Friday, Labour was 37 per cent ahead of the Tories in Gallup's survey of public credibility on education. Gimmicks won't close this gap.

Elder Asmal MP, Minister, Department of Water Affairs and Forestry, South African Government of National Unity, Private Bag 29052, Cape Town 8000.

Maggie at war

NOTICE that in Baroness Thatcher's speech in Fulton, Missouri, (March 9) she warns of the military dangers posed by unstable megalomaniacs.

Leaving aside the temptation to ask her to examine the mole in her own eye, I cannot however but ponder on her sudden realisation that these are indeed dangerous people and were no less so when, as Time Minister, she did all she could to encourage the sale of arms to them.

Perhaps we should see her latest offering in the same light, for the construction of Star Wars II could not help but boost the profits of the very same people in the military hardware business.

Less from Lady, more brass. Brian Bethell, 3 Cherry Drive, Canterbury, Kent CT2 8HF.



Feeding (on) the pigeons

IN Trafalgar Square, we have a magnificent civic space, redolent with historic association, yet its outer edges are thronged with heavy traffic, and the pollution arising from those vehicles is all too evident, especially in summer (Leader, March 9). The middle of the square is crowded with feral pigeons. Can such an environment be healthy for us, much less for our children?

I understand, incidentally, that the Tower of London, the only public square in Westminster where pigeon feeding is permitted, is this any longer appropriate?

Michael Gwilliam, Director, Civic Trust, 17 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5AW.

YOU report that "hare numbers have dropped to an all time low" and that "one of the causes of this decline is hare coursing" (Ministers consider hunting restrictions to aid dwindling hare population, March 9). This is untrue. The Joint Nature Conservation

Council reports that "field sports such as shooting, coursing and beagling... are not believed to pose a threat to the national hare population." It also mentions the positive contribution that game keepers make to hare numbers.

Where there is coursing there are always game keepers. They make sure there are always hares. Restricting or banning coursing would disrupt this triangle of hare conservation. The species would become further threatened by its greatest foes: modern agricultural practices and fox predation.

Here is the central weakness of the animal rights movement: it is not underpinned by sound conservation principles but by an extremist political philosophy which has little to do with the species they are trying to protect.

John Gardner, Director, Political Affairs, British Field Sports Society, 59 Kennington Road, London SE1 7PZ.

Age of irony

READ Mark Lawson's ageist piece with the chagrin of one who, in 1960, played Trevor Nunn's twin — I was Viola to his Sebastian. Is this the same Mark Lawson who, in an account of his own inability to pass his driving test, described me as having passed mine "in late middle age"? I was 43 at the time. If he really is only 33, he has a long way to go in the next decade.

Margaret Drabble (aged 56), 21 Marks Road, London W10.

YOU say (The Crown Duels, 11 March 11) that the new Roundheads are film-makers, PR consultants, OGCs, accountants and broadcasters. How encouraging. But you can't fool us. These "new Roundheads" are only attacking the monarchy to hide the truth — the aristocracy lost power long ago. There's been a coup in this country being run by hives. They've taken over the media, and they are in control of one of the main political parties, and now they want to replace the Queen.

A luviarchy or a monarchy — some choice! Frances Smith, 154 Wellesley Road, Ilford, Essex.

A Country Diary

SOMERSET: Familiar sights and surroundings (and not just the hopeful crocuses in the garden) struck our eyes with extra sparkle after a time far from home, in places where sky and grass were unfamiliar colours: trees and shrubs were unfamiliar shapes, and *Funa*, like *Flora*, were strange and exotic. Sunshine obligingly lit south Somerset hillsides a green that looked especially vivid after the dun-coloured planes and hills of north east Victoria. Just a short time ago, a journey by antique steam train up to the Dandenong ranges outside Melbourne had taken us past what looked like (and in Somerset would have been) a vineyard, but the produce turned out to be not grapes but Kiwi fruit. The Dandenongs are lush, jungle country, watered by streams that flow into Port Phillip, in part sub-temperate rainforest, where Platypus and Lyre-birds live, largely unseen. Gum-trees and tree-fern crowd in on the winding railway line. There are grey gums, manna-gums, silverleaf

stringybarks, and, most striking of all, the gum known as mountain ash. In late summer, when it has soughed off the old bark, it stands out amongst the greys and browns, tall, straight, and striped almost white. Somerset sheep look plump, very white, and rather pleased. He themselves after the lean, dusty merinos stretched across miles of brown Australian grass that looks, to an English eye, dry and unappealing. You can understand why early European painters of the Australian landscape failed. The English palette would not work there. The country store in the tiny hamlet of Throna, near Glenrowan, makes another kind of contrast: bare floorboards, basic groceries in battered tins ranged on wooden shelves around the walls, a single petrol pump outside and the odd customer every hour or so on first-name terms with the owner, who has a toddler on her hip as she minds the store and works the pump.

JOHN VALLINS

Diary

Matthew Norman

In response to the appeal for memories of Peter Bitchens in his pre-Express, Trotskyite days, the metaphorical postbag...

Controlling the slithering beast

Commentary

Hugo Young

IF THERE is ever a referendum on a single European currency, it is obvious, though sometimes forgotten, what must precede it...

already have been endorsed by large swathes of opposition politicians as well as the majority of productive wealth-creators round the country...

roughly the same, and Portillo saw the trap. He could see something else. For there will be a further condition to any referendum campaign...

Major's strategy is at almost any cost to minimise splits in his Government

perhaps he thinks the referendum is no more than a posturing-point, sufficient unto the election...

On parade with the Gay Spartans



Catherine Bennett

LIKE the right to work down the mines, or the right to die on a battlefield...

rights

MEANWHILE, I am shocked to note that some readers have rung the Express "Let's Get There" freephone number...

THE Christian principle of forgiveness has infiltrated big business. Annie Bebbington of Tottenham has received a letter of apology from the Royal Mail...

FIGHTING a one-woman rear-guard action against her family's image as grasping materialists is my friend Princess Michael of Kent...

NEW beer is being advertised in the USA. Made by the Pittsburgh Brewing Company (brewers since 1881), and featuring "slip LA models" on the labels...

WE began with a paragon of political consistency, and thus we must end, I am appalled by a vile assault on my sane and rational friend Paul Johnson in the Spectator...



One China too many

John Gittings argues that behind the missile-rattling in the East China Sea the fundamental territorial ambitions of both sides have never gone away

THIS TIME the cannons which China has announced it will fire in the Taiwan Straits are loaded, and the question puzzling everyone is: why? Mao Zedong once famously told Richard Nixon not to worry about Beijing's glory propaganda...

Chongqing argument, "the army steps in and demands action." The "confusion" they argue arises from the political paralysis caused by what may well be Mr Deng's medical paralysis. Chinese officials say, with deadening repetition, that he is as well as can be expected for someone of his age...

Advertisement for Jonathan Smith's book 'The Go-Between: a love story of beauty, deprivation and tragedy'. Includes a photo of Jonathan Smith and promotional text.



10 OBITUARIES

Léo Malet

Poetry of the gutter

HE WAS adulated by both intellectuals and the common reader as "the Dashiell Hammett of the French thriller". But Léo Malet, who has died in France aged 88, was an original writer unique in the history of the genre. Indeed, he was the inventor of the French *roman noir* in the 1940s, long before the invasion of foreign crime-writers like Chandler and Cheyney.

Even before the war, Malet was evincing the foul lower depths of Paris with icy, clinical swiftness and a command of criminal argot and street slang without equal at that time.

He created a peculiar poetic realism of the gutter conveyed so well in Jacques Tardi's brilliant strip cartoon renderings of some of his blackest novels. He was the father of one of the great fictional detectives, Nestor Burma, part-portrait of his author, with his outrageous tongue and bull-headed pipe, a character to stand beside Simonon's Malgrat.

Léo claimed he found his hero's name in Sax Rohmer, in the first of that series, Dr Petrie exclaims: "Nayland-Smith, from Burma!" He sometimes claimed he had got it from the Burma Shave ads that used to clutter American motorway. I think he must have got the Nestor from Baudelaire's *Le Splein de Paris*.

Orphaned in Montpellier at the age of four, Malet was brought up by his grandfather, for whom he felt a profound attachment, because he taught him to love reading. At 16, already involved in the anarchist movement, he moved to Paris, where he did odd jobs. During the 1930s he was befriended by the pope of surrealist poetry, André Breton, and through him got to know the movement's poets and painters.

Tanguy, Dalí, Magritte and Masson all illustrated his early collections of surrealist poetry, with provocative names like *Seeing no further than the end of one's Prick* (1936). He also took part in the group's boisterous demonstrations and spent some nights in prison with Georges Bataille after creating a "happening" that was considered a breach of the peace.

It had been inspired by the film *Carrougeur*, directed by Kurt Bernhardt now unjustly forgotten. Figures like Philip Marlowe, Lemmy Caution and Senna Callaghan were the fictional idols of post-war Paris, but Malet's Nestor Burma had forestalled them all.

Another important departure in his work was his *Trilogie Noire*, which contained the now cult-status story *La Vie est dégoûtée* (Life's a Heap of Shit), *Sueur aux tripes* (Belly Sweats) and *Le Soleil n'est pas pour nous* (The Sun is not for Us). At the Cannes Film Festival, Léo was watching Jim Jarmusch's *Stranger Than Paradise* and was startled to hear one of the characters saying he was going to see a movie called *The Sun is not for Us*. When Léo met Jim, the latter admitted that he had taken the title from Léo, in homage to his work.

THE success of these revolutionary, outspoken thrillers was limited, though in the 1980s they had a revival and have been in print ever since. Critics compared them with other foreign idols, David Goodis and Derek Raymond, revered in France under the name of Robin Cook.

In 1984, after a lapse of interest in his hero on Malet's part, he brought Nestor Burma back to life in an ambitious new series called *Les Nouveaux Mystères de Paris*. This was intended to be a long-running sequence of *lèche* affairs, each set in a different district of Paris. Léo tired of it all halfway through: he had got no further than the 15th arrondissement.

After 1989, he more or less stopped writing, living off the substantial royalties from rediscovered early work and the fees from the ever-increasing popularity of TV versions of Nestor Burma stories, whose hero was masterfully portrayed by Guy Marchand.

Malet became something of a recluse in his suburban apartment, where his beloved ancient Underwood never superseded by a word processor, which Léo looked upon, like all serious writers, with scorn, as a plaything for children. He grew increasingly morbid, and would greet visitors with "Can you hear the sandglass running?" or "I'm done for now. You can prepare your obit". He died on the same day as Marguerite Duras, so according to French literary etiquette — ladies before gentlemen — his disappearance (as the French say) was not announced until she had been buried at Montparnasse.

Today, a wonderful bookshop, the *Bibliothèque de littérature policière* (Billpop) in the rue Cardinal-Lemoine, is the last true resting-place of Nestor Burma and Léo Malet enshrined in their totality along with Nick Carter, Sherlock Holmes and Jules Maigret.

James Kirkup
Léo Malet, writer, born March 7, 1907; died March 3, 1996



Morbid humour... Malet would greet visitors with 'I'm done for now. You can prepare your obits'



Aiming high... Compston wanted to close the gap between art, entertainment, and retailing

Joshua Compston

Art as revolution

JOSHUA Compston, who has died suddenly, was a beguiling and improbable revolutionary in the British art world, a perpetual student who always gave the impression of being in a tremendous hurry. He was, it must now seem, a brilliant meteor, giving off a shower of sparks in a brief and incandescent career. He always used to say perhaps only half in jest that he would die when he was 25. He took his life after attending the opening of the Jean-Michel Basquiat show at the Serpentine. In London, another youthful star with a truncated artistic progeny.

A famously violent child, from a comfortable middle-class home — his father was a judge — he travelled a well-worn route through art college, where he made an impression by endlessly inventing ways of using art to subvert the world around him. He was a prominent and articulate promoter of many of today's young artists who have changed the face of British art — though it brought him no lasting advantage.

Many people thought him pushy and megalomaniac, and he was. He had a monstrous ego and driving ambition, but he also had a fabulous imagination. He wanted to be famous and rich. He loved to eat in expensive restaurants, though he often had to borrow the money for the fare home. But his megaloma-

nia was deeply endearing, put at the disposal of life-enhancing projects that transformed all those who participated in them. He was a unique, unusual person, and an amazing and generous friend.

If the phrase had not been already coined, he could justifiably have been described as a fun-loving revolutionary. At one stage he actually took off to join the revolution in Central America but, typically, he ran into an oligarch's daughter and teamed up with her for a while instead. As an incorrigible student at the Courtauld, he dared to suggest that they might exhibit contemporary art on their august and unadorned walls, giving them Gilbert and George and Damien Hirst when they would have preferred 19th-century watercolours.

Later he transformed the environment of Hoxton Square by organising regular art and music events that evoked the bizarre happenings of an earlier era. Compston would have been at home with the Futurists or with the Situationists — he was. Then he was followed a year later by The Hanging Picnic, a mixture of cake and art, as he put it.

He joked artworks from his wide circle of friends and acquaintances, and cleverly staged shows across the generational divide. He always seemed completely fearless when bunting the great, and student friends recall drinking champagne with Francis Bacon in the Colony Room at the age of 17. He chatted up Gilbert and George in their local cafe because he happened to be living in Brick Lane at the time, and they were among his most loyal supporters. The Hanging Picnic, which was just that, a picnic in a London square with contemporary art hanging on the railings, became part of a memorable television film.

His chief pride was in his invention of a multi-national company that he called Factual Nonsense — slogan FN: No Fun Without U. With regular exhortations to the managing director (himself), he planned to wage a war against contemporary capitalism with the weapons of art.

THE aim, he would say, was to exploit and eventually explode the gap between art, advertising, entertainment, high street retailing, and real estate development. FN operated from a ground-floor studio in Charlotte Road from where Joshua turned his guns on what he saw as the banality of modern culture. For a long time he lived on a shelf at the back. He was wholly impetuous. "Sometimes I give an interview," he told me recently, "and then I go down to the dole office." Compston always operated as a one-man-band, and used to say that he wanted to set an

example. "If I can make things happen, you can too." He always needed to be on the crest of a wave, but behind all the frenetic activity was a deep sense of exhaustion and disappointment. The cultural revolution he sought to achieve never quite happened. "I give so much," he would sometimes say, "and get so little in return."

Richard Gott

David Hayles writes: Joshua was an exuberant showman; during his student days he had a stall at Brick Lane market selling antique radiators and other curious gimlets and would drum up trade by walking round in leather skirt and gas mask, often to no effect. But Josh was undeterred, he had bigger things on his mind. He loved to throw parties. I was first introduced to him at a new year's eve celebration at his family home in Strand on the Green, where he greeted guests wearing his trademark white mess jacket, and later made a speech on the banks of the Thames to all who would listen. Legend has it he once tried to hijack the Oxford to Cambridge boat race in his tin private. At his now infamous private views at Factual Nonsense, people didn't come to see the art hanging on the walls, they came to see Josh.

Joshua Compston, art impresario, born June 1, 1970; died March 5, 1996

Sylvia Williams

Seeing Africa in America

SYLVIA WILLIAMS, who has died aged 60, was a scholar and specialist in African art history who, with considerable bravura and force of personality, transformed a small, formerly private, museum into Washington DC's world-renowned National Museum of African Art. She oversaw its move from a Capitol Hill group of townhouses into the Smithsonian Institution on the National Mall, where its five inaugural exhibitions opened in 1987 to glowing reviews.

Sylvia was passionately committed to acquiring and presenting the best of African art, a skill she had first honed as a curator at the Brooklyn Museum. In anticipation of the opening of the new museum building, she acquired a private European collection of outstanding aesthetic merit, and thus laid the foundation for ongoing acquisition and exhibition programs that reflected the diversity of sub-Saharan African cultures and visual traditions.

Carefully, and with a highly selective eye, Sylvia guided her curators in the purchase of some 845 works of art during her 13 years at the museum. Her view of art, and of African art, was always broad. She took particular delight in strong sculpture, but she also actively promoted exhibitions that featured archaeology, photography, textiles, ceramics and utilitarian arts — she personally curated the inaugural exhibition, *Objects of Use*, and worked closely with me on the later 1991 exhibition, *The Art of The Personal Object*.

This followed two intensive years of acquiring a splendid variety of useful objects, such as chairs, stool, headrests, bowls, pipes, snuff containers and spoons, and beer straws. That many of these objects were from eastern and southern Africa was an added bonus in collection-building, for these areas were under-represented in North American public collections.

In 1991, Sylvia began to create the framework for a more inclusive approach that would embrace the arts of northern Africa as well as the creativity embodied in the work of modern African artists. In 1993, she organized and circulated by the University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, and The Ancient Nubian City Of Kerma 2500-1500 BC, which involved an innovative sharing of collections with Boston's Museum of

Fine Arts, and the Corning Museum of Glass.

The creation of a new gallery space for the Kerma exhibition led to the reorganization of the museum's works of art from the Kingdom of Benin as the Ancient West African City of Benin. AD 1300-1807. These exhibitions responded to a growing North American interest in African art exhibitions that dealt seriously with history. In 1994, Sylvia personally curated an important exhibition of modern African art featuring the works of two artists from the Sudan — with etchings by Mohammed Omer Khalil and sculpture



Williams... moving spirit

by Anir T M Nour — and authored the accompanying catalogue.

Williams's achievement, as Susan Vogel, director of the Yale University art gallery and African art scholar, noted, was to have "single-handedly changed the landscape of African art in the United States."

Sylvia Williams leaves behind an exceptional legacy of commitment to Africa's visual traditions, a commitment to quality, to integrity, and to sensitivity in the portrayal of Africa through its vibrant visual arts.

Philip Ravenhill

Sylvia Williams, museum director and curator, born February 10, 1936; died February 27, 1996

Death Notices

GARNER, Margaret Harriet, on Saturday March 10, 2006 peacefully in Cinton clearly fit, 90, Anne, 90. Her dearly loved wife of the late Donald Nicholson Garner. Much loved and adored aunt of Bruce, Doreen sister of the late Tom Leigh. She will always be remembered for her love and affection. Further enquiries to J & A Purcell, tel 01203 75343

MCCOY, Michael (born 1 February 1930) died peacefully in Ealing Hospital on 10th March 1996. He was 65. He was the son of Mrs. M. McCoy. He was married to Mrs. M. McCoy. He was the father of Mrs. M. McCoy. He was the grandfather of Mrs. M. McCoy. He was the great-grandfather of Mrs. M. McCoy. He was the great-great-grandfather of Mrs. M. McCoy. He was the great-great-great-grandfather of Mrs. M. McCoy.

McKENNELL, Leslie (deceased), on Sunday March 11th, leaving husband of Mary, late of Little Art, Essex and grands, granddaughters, Ethna, Fiona and Thomas

SADLER, James Kingston (born 8th of March at 1888, Farnham, Surrey, and died peacefully at home on 11th of March at 109, Westcombe Park, London, after a long illness. He was the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. C. Sadler. He was married to Mrs. M. Sadler. He was the father of Mrs. M. Sadler. He was the grandfather of Mrs. M. Sadler. He was the great-grandfather of Mrs. M. Sadler. He was the great-great-grandfather of Mrs. M. Sadler. He was the great-great-great-grandfather of Mrs. M. Sadler.

Acknowledgments

JOHNSON David William MBE FITSA died 2nd of February 1996. Gwyneth and Margaret thank all family and friends who sent many messages of love and sympathy and all who attended the service and offering on the 8th of February 1996. The family are grateful to the Rev. Canon C. Sadler for his kind and comforting service. The family are grateful to the Rev. Canon C. Sadler for his kind and comforting service. The family are grateful to the Rev. Canon C. Sadler for his kind and comforting service.

Births

HADFIELD, ARTHUR and ANGELA are delighted to announce the birth of their daughter Alexandra on 28th March 1996, at St. Catherine's Hospital, Glasgow. A sister for Douglas.

DO YOU BELIEVE IN LIFE AFTER DEATH? We do. Kidney research saves lives. So do legacies.

NATIONAL KIDNEY RESEARCH FUND
3 Archers Court, Stables Way, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire PE18 6XG
Telephone 01480 454628
Registered Charity No. 252521

Jackdaw



Blur, pulp, mash

I ALWAYS listen to music when I'm cooking. If it's a long, complicated recipe such as beef Wellington, I listen to *Sieve Winwood or late Genesis* at medium volume. Beef in beer has to be cooked to Bruce Hornsby's *The way it is* and if it's something simpler, such as rabbit stew, then it is Sting's earlier stuff at top volume. I have a treasured grey book that is my address and recipe book combined, where I list what music should be played and at what volume underneath each recipe.

- Camembert and filo pastry parcels.
- 2 sheets filo pastry per person
- 3oz clarified butter
- 1 cube of Camembert per person
- Gooseberry or redcurrant jelly
- Tori Amos, medium volume
- Marinated lamb kebabs with raita
- 2lb leg of lamb
- Juice of one lemon
- 2 cloves garlic
- 1 onion
- Olive oil
- Oregano
- Red and green peppers
- Greek yoghurt
- Mint
- Cucumber
- Daniel Lanois* or U2, loud
- Raspberries and champagne sorbet.
- 2lb raspberries
- 8fl oz champagne
- Lemon juice
- 4oz caster sugar
- 2fl oz double cream
- The Indigo Girls, medium volume, or early Suzanne Vega, medium volume
- No fish fingers and *East 17* for Guy Burt, young noelists
- Peas and cook interviewed in *Harpers & Queen*.

Delia undone

HEGEL would, on the whole, have approved of Delia Smith, and settled back after a day's wrestling with the absolute to watch eagerly what she might think to do next with a cranberry. He had much to resent from other writers on cookery... Aesthetic response, according to Hegel, leaves the object of its delight alone, and especially leaves it where it was for others to delight in. Art's pleasures are at a remove from consumption. Essentially sensuous though a work of art is, this sensuousness yields itself up over and over again to many people, maintains itself in real independence of any individual's rapture or excitation... Delia and her cooking transcend sensuous immediacy, as do (in various ways) marble goddesses and members of the royal family. In her shows, she eschews the pandering to the audience's taste buds so deplorable in other exponents of the edible. She never tastes her own food on screen. Cooking Green Thai Curry for us, she remarks, "The aromas are just indescribable, so I won't try to describe them". How wise... The calm of Delia's work expresses itself best in her over-arching and point-instant grasp of time. She is so narrative, it is surprising she hasn't been more written about... Demonstrating her recipe for Hung Shao pork, she says "Begin in half". "Start off by placing the haddock pieces in a large saucepan". And she stays with you all the way, ticking off the instructions — "First of all... Then... Now... Next... Then... Now... Then... Now... Until we arrive together at a 'Finally'." No other cookery writer so resembles a guardian angel, beating its wings over you at every step.

Soap opera

Dear Maid, Please do not leave any more of those little bars of soap in my bathroom since I have brought my own bath-side Dial. Please remove the six unopened little bars from the shelf under the medicine chest and another three in the shower soap dish. Thank you, S Berman.

Dear Room 635, I am not your regular maid. She will be back tomorrow Thursday. From her day off I took the three hotel soaps out of the shower soap dish as you requested. The six bars on your shelf I took out of your way and put on top of your Kleenex dispenser in case you should change your mind. This leaves only the three bars I left today. My instructions from the management are to leave three daily. I hope this is satisfactory. Kathy, Relief Maid.

Clone zone

SAFE-T-MAN: Your Personal Bodyguard. Designed as a visual deterrent. Safe-T-Man is a life-size, simulated male that appears to be 180lbs and 6ft tall, to give others the impression that you have the protection of a male guardian with you while at home, alone, or driving in your car. This unique security product looks incredibly real, with movable latex head and hands, and airbrushed facial highlights. Made of soft fabric polyfibre, he weighs less than 10lbs. Dress him according to your own style (clothing not included); the optional button on legs complete with a total visual effect, if desired. Light Skin/Blonde Hair Man, Light Skin/Gray Hair Man, Dark Skin/Dark Hair Man. From an advertisement for Safe-T-Man, the male companion who never answers but is reproduced in the art and culture magazine, *Plazm*.

Jackdaw wants your Jewels. E-mail jackdaw@guardian.co.uk; fax 0171-713-4366; Jackdaw, The Guardian, 119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER.

Eric Griffiths examines the aesthetics of the senses in *Hege's Winter Collection*, published in the TLS.

Vital ingredient... H&Q

Dear Mr Berman.

My day off was last Wed so the relief maid left three hotel soaps, which we are instructed by the management. I took the six soaps, which were in your way on the shelf, and put them in the soap dish where your Dial was. I put the Dial in the medicine cabinet. I didn't remove the three complimentary soaps which are always placed inside the medicine cabinet for all new check-ins and which you did not object to last Monday. Please, let me know if I can be of further assistance. Your regular maid, Dotty. Will Mr Berman get his way with the bath-side Dial? More from this improbable e-mail tale tomorrow.

simulated male that appears to be 180lbs and 6ft tall, to give others the impression that you have the protection of a male guardian with you while at home, alone, or driving in your car. This unique security product looks incredibly real, with movable latex head and hands, and airbrushed facial highlights. Made of soft fabric polyfibre, he weighs less than 10lbs. Dress him according to your own style (clothing not included); the optional button on legs complete with a total visual effect, if desired.

Light Skin/Blonde Hair Man
Light Skin/Gray Hair Man
Dark Skin/Dark Hair Man
From an advertisement for Safe-T-Man, the male companion who never answers but is reproduced in the art and culture magazine, *Plazm*.

Jackdaw wants your Jewels. E-mail jackdaw@guardian.co.uk; fax 0171-713-4366; Jackdaw, The Guardian, 119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER.

Jackdaw wants your Jewels.

See page 14 for more obituaries

Financial Editor: Alex Brummer
 Telephone: 0171-238-9610
 Fax: 0171-833-4456

Finance Guardian

German bank chief offers rates hope

All ye faithful... dealers during frantic trading on London's Liffe exchange yesterday



PHOTOGRAPH: ANDREW SHAW

Notebook

Not quite time for bomb shelter yet



Edited by Alex Brummer

WITH the exception of Hong Kong, where there was some talk of war over Taiwan to contend with, the global equity markets did not go through a Black Monday after Wall Street's grey Friday.

March 1996 is not October 1987, whatever much of the weekend analysis may have said. As no less a figure than the Bundesbank president, Hans Tietmeyer, observed yesterday, emerging from the central bankers club in Basle, "underlying conditions are healthy worldwide."

Certainly there has been a speculative bubble in New York this year, particularly in technology shares — and, latterly, as consumer spending has come alive, in retail shares. But the divisive economic issues of 1987, which were part of the psychology of the crash, no longer persist. In 1987, the US and Germany were at each other's throats over interest rate levels. Now, monetary policy on both sides of the Atlantic is reasonably relaxed, in keeping with a fairly dormant inflation outlook. Indeed, as Dr Tietmeyer noted, there may be room for further monetary easing (without further inflation).

Similarly, budgetary battles are not the irritant they were in 1987. The US, forced by the conflict between Congress and White House, has put itself into a balanced budget corset — although it is worth remembering that President Clinton had already halved the budget deficit he inherited from George Bush. In Europe, the need to keep EMU alive has governments scrambling to deal with outstanding budgetary issues.

This is not to say that New York investors were wrong on Friday. The capacity of the US economy is stretched, and the risk is that growth will translate itself into an unmanageable consumer boom. Hence the surge in bond yields. That may justify further correction and consolidation on Wall Street, but it is not bomb shelter time.

Major promises

JOHN Major was right to emphasise the importance to the economy of strong and growing small- and medium-sized businesses and to acknowledge the sector's role in creating jobs. "They are crucial to the future of the UK," he told the UK Business Matters conference.

The Prime Minister was also right to note that removing unnecessary shackles from business should not mean a complete laissez faire approach — that where Government could help, it should. The promised bonfire of red tape should, indeed, be used to burn away excess paperwork and make it easier for smaller firms to comply with a more straightforward set of regulations.

But making the UK the enterprise centre of Europe also requires the full and enthusiastic participation of the workforce in small and other businesses.

It is the Government's role to mediate competing demands from different groups in society — from employers who demand fewer regulations and from workers who demand the right to be treated fairly and with respect.

Much of what small firms are telling Government is reasonable and sensible, particularly on the vexed issue of late payment. But it is also reasonable for their staff to enjoy basic employment rights.

That Conservative politicians are, at the moment, desperate to secure the business votes which drifted away during the recession should not mean that the smaller firms' lobby has its demands accepted automatically. This is no more acceptable than a policy conveyor belt from trade unions to Labour.

Markets stay on red alert

Mark Tran in New York and Paul Murphy

THE CITY remained in a state of high tension last night, despite having fears of another rout on Wall Street dispelled and regardless of a comforting statement from Hans Tietmeyer, Bundesbank president, indicating that there was still room for interest rate cuts across Europe.

London's financial markets suffered a day of extreme volatility. Traders in the bond and equity market struggled to respond to the panic selling which hit New York late on Friday, wiping 171 points off the Dow Jones share index.

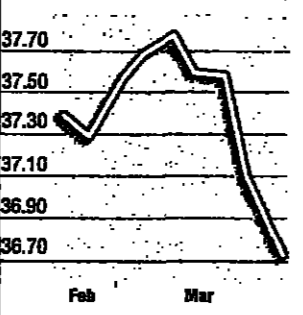
Britain's FTSE 100 index slumped almost 80 points at one stage in the morning, with dealers given an additional fright by the collapse in sentiment on the Hong Kong

market. Investors there were reacting to the deterioration of relations between China and Taiwan as well as events in the US.

However, a rebound in share prices in New York once trading resumed yesterday quickly fed through to

FTSE-100

From 28/2/96 - 11/3/96 daily



Source: Datastream

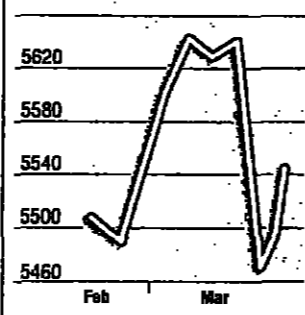
London. The loss on the Top 100 was cut to 35.8 points, leaving this key indicator at 3674.5. On Wall Street, the Dow Jones recovered 86 points to 5556 by mid-afternoon. Earlier, the Hang Seng index crashed 7.3 per cent — down 820 points to 10,397. In London, the price of gilt-edged stock also steadied.

Analysts noted that there was no rush to sell by private investors — a key factor which contributed significantly to the 1987 stock market crash. But Wall Street strategists still suspect that last week's US jobs figures — showing an unexpected jump in job creation — will herald an important shift in investor sentiment.

David Schulman, a market analyst with Salomon Brothers, said the market could fall "another couple of hundred points — but not much more.... We are seeing a repricing of the market

Dow Jones

From 28/2/96 - 11/3/96 daily



Source: Datastream

to take into account the new interest rate environment." Hopes of a further easing by the Federal Reserve when its policy committee meets on March 26 have been abandoned.

"The bond market was deducing itself on a weak economic and further Fed easing," said Peter Canelo of NatWest Securities. He pointed to other signs of strength preceding February's unemployment data, including strong factory orders, retail sales and consumer confidence.

There was further evidence of economic strength in the US yesterday, with house sales up 4.2 per cent in January. Analysts had been looking for a 4.6 per cent drop.

Other figures keenly awaited this week include consumer prices, industrial production and capacity utilisation.

In Europe, Mr Tietmeyer emerged from a meeting of central bankers from the G10 group commenting that recent turbulence across the world's markets was simply an "adjustment."

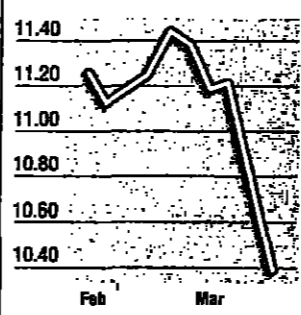
"We don't see any crisis and don't see any reason for further declines," he said. "Monetary policy has done its job. However, in some

countries, there may be further room for small interest rate reductions, dependent on further examination of economic conditions."

"It is very important to be cautious," he added. "One should not create any inflationary expectations."

Hang Seng

From 28/2/96 - 11/3/96 daily



Source: Datastream

Orders famine forces factories to cut prices

Larry Elliott Economics Editor

A DEARTH of demand is forcing Britain's manufacturers to cut production and rein back on price increases, according to government figures released yesterday.

Data from the Central Statistical Office showed that factory output in the latest quarter fell more sharply than at any time since the recession, while the annual growth rate in underlying factory gate prices fell for the fifth successive month.

City analysts said the downbeat message from industry vindicated last Friday's quarter-point cut in base rates, adding that any improvement would depend on the gloom lifting in Britain's main European markets and on stronger consumer demand at home.

However, the latest snapshot of high street activity from the British Retail Consortium shows spending has

come off the boil following buoyant trading conditions over the Christmas period.

Annual sales growth in retailing stood at 3.6 per cent in February, down from 4.1 per cent in January and 4.3 per cent in December, the BRC says today.

Andrew Santance, the BRC's chief economic adviser, said: "The retail sales recovery lost a little momentum in February, though the underlying growth rate remains steady. The interest rate reduction we saw last week should help to counter any consumer hesitancy and appears fully justified in the light of these figures."

According to the CSO's data, UK manufacturing production was 0.6 per cent lower in the three months to January than in the previous quarter. A 0.3 per cent increase in output in January failed to compensate for the 0.8 per cent drop in December.

The industry's output is no higher than the level achieved before the recession

in spring 1990, and has increased by only 5 per cent in the 22 years since the millennium in the wake of the three-day week.

Officials believe the current trend is flat, giving credence to the City's view that firms are meeting demand from stocks rather than new production.

Prices charged at factory gates rose by just 0.2 per cent last month, a smaller increase than in February 1996. The annual rate fell from 3.8 per cent to 3.7 per cent, while the underlying rate — excluding food, drink, tobacco and petroleum products — slipped from 3.6 to 3.5 per cent.

One bonus for manufacturers is that the reduction in global growth is feeding through into lower commodity prices, reducing industry's bills for fuel and raw materials.

Input prices dropped by 0.9 per cent in February, cutting the annual rate of growth from 3.9 per cent to 3.0 per cent.

Lloyd's Names 'will fight on'

Pauline Springett

REBEL Names at Lloyd's of London threatened yesterday to fight to the bitter end in their battle over the multi-billion-pound losses as final offers were dropped on their doorsteps.

They warned that they would reject the market's £2.8 billion settlement deal unless the indicative offers were improved.

Lloyd's, which has lost around £11 billion, mailed offers to 34,000 Names over the weekend. Few Names will receive any money. "The majority will have to pay, with demands rising to £100,000 for around 10,000 of those hardest hit by losses. The finalised offers will be posted in May, with both sides braced for some tough negotiating in the next couple of months."

Christopher Stockwell, chairman of the Lloyd's Names Association's Working Party, said that the overwhelming response of Names who had contacted him was one of horror. Many would lose their entire funds — the amount they have to deposit at

Lloyd's to back their underwriting — as well as having to pay up to £100,000.

"Lloyd's knows it has to improve this," he said.

Several Names immediately pledged to continue fighting for damages for their losses through the courts. If they accept the offer, they will have to abandon litigation. One, who asked not to be identified, said he had already paid £660,000 and was being asked for a further £100,000.

Another Name, who also requested anonymity, said the offer would have to be improved by 60 per cent if it was to be more attractive than litigation. "This is a waste of paper, a complete insult," she said.

A Lloyd's spokesman tried to quell fears of widespread revolt, saying that the first stage will be to apply for extra debt relief. To qualify, he will have to submit himself to a means test.

That is not a prospect many Names relish, but Mr Platts, who now works for the Good Walker action group, has lost so much money he says he no longer cares.

Road to ruin for Richard just a case of bad timing

Pauline Springett

RICHARD Platts was quite calm in the circumstances. His indictment from Lloyd's — four pages long accompanied by a 48-page explanatory guide — informed him that he would have to pay another £100,000 to draw a final line under his dealings with the scandal-ridden insurance market, writes Pauline Springett.

"I fully expected it. I can't pay any of it. It's an interesting bit of paper," said Mr Platts, a former economics lecturer now in his sixties.

Mr Platts joined Lloyd's in 1986 — when he had assets of £280,000 — just after the market had notched up a series of record profits. His timing proved catastrophic.

In 1987 he made a profit of around £20,000, a sum swiftly swallowed up by his 1988 loss of £100,000.

After that the losses mushroomed. They now total nearly £2 million and his original £250,000 has long gone.

He will now attempt to negotiate a reduced final bill. The first stage will be to apply for extra debt relief. To qualify, he will have to submit himself to a means test.

That is not a prospect many Names relish, but Mr Platts, who now works for the Good Walker action group, has lost so much money he says he no longer cares.

Buffett brands

THE Dow Jones may go up and down like a yo-yo, but the shares of Berkshire Hathaway, the investment vehicle of legendary investor Warren Buffett, remain as steady as a rock at \$37,000 a piece. At first glance the performance of the company in 1996 looks less than impressive, with earnings down 1 per cent. But Buffett followers, like the master himself, are not interested in ephemeral gains. Far more important to them is shareholder equity which last year climbed by 45 per cent to

Allied Domecq pins hopes on family pubs

Ian King

DRINKS group Allied Domecq yesterday set out to boost its share of the lucrative family pubs market, with a £150 million refurbishment programme, and a pledge to create at least 7,500 full and part-time jobs.

Allied, at the centre of demerger rumours since last month's profits warning, unveiled an expansion of its family-based Big Steak Pub and Wacky Warehouse children's play areas.

The investment, one of the biggest in a single year by a drinks company, comes at a time when pub operators are falling over themselves to attract families.

Martin Grant, managing di-

rector of Allied Domecq Leisure, said family pubs had been growing in popularity for several years, but received an extra boost with all-day Sunday opening last year.

In addition, Mr Grant said local authorities were now starting to accept more readily the conversion of non-pub buildings, such as chapels and libraries.

He added: "This more liberal approach is allowing pub chains to operate on a more competitive footing with places such as cafes, and the pub market has only just started to reap the benefits."

Under Allied's plan, at least 100 more Big Steak pubs will be added to the 333-strong chain by Christmas, most of which will also carry Wacky Warehouse areas. Mr Grant said Wacky Warehouse — where parents will be barred — would be staffed by qualified nurses, and video recordings would be made of every person entering.

Director of Allied Domecq Leisure, said family pubs had been growing in popularity for several years, but received an extra boost with all-day Sunday opening last year.

In addition, Mr Grant said local authorities were now starting to accept more readily the conversion of non-pub buildings, such as chapels and libraries.

He added: "This more liberal approach is allowing pub chains to operate on a more competitive footing with places such as cafes, and the pub market has only just started to reap the benefits."

Under Allied's plan, at least 100 more Big Steak pubs will be added to the 333-strong chain by Christmas, most of which will also carry Wacky Warehouse areas. Mr Grant said Wacky Warehouse — where parents will be barred — would be staffed by qualified nurses, and video recordings would be made of every person entering.

Santer seeks £700m ministerial bypass

John Palmer in Brussels

JACQUES Santer, president of the European Commission, is going over the heads of European Union finance ministers with a plan to switch spending from agriculture to transport and energy.

The finance ministers are threatening to block an EC plan to find extra cash for trans-European networks

summit later this month — to raise the issue again with EU heads of government if they decide to confirm the position taken by the finance ministers then at least we will know where the responsibility for lack of progress will lie."

Chancellor Kenneth Clarke joined ministers from France, Germany and the Netherlands yesterday in insisting that any underpinning be returned to national governments.

Experts urge 'back to work' plan to beat benefits trap

Sarah Hyle

A \$7.5 BILLION programme also get the jobless back to work was unveiled today by employment experts who said the number of people caught in the benefits trap is reaching crisis levels.

The package would include a £3.50 hourly minimum wage as well as lower taxes for poorly paid jobs and a new benefits system so that wage gains were not cancelled out by reduction in state handouts.

As the number of homes dependent on benefits has risen to one in five, more unemployed people have found they lose more than they gain by working, research by the Employment Policy Institute showed. The type of work on offer — known as entry jobs — has become less secure and less well-paid.

But the scheme would have to be phased in over three years and would boost the basic rate of tax to at least 27p. "The benefits trap is very real," said Nick Isles, director of the EPI. "It is an expensive scheme and no politician is going to commit to this sort of

spending in the current climate. But without it we will just see an increasing crisis."

He said the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Kenneth Clarke, could leave the basic tax rate where it is and target any cuts at the bottom end of the jobs market.

One in five homes were without a wage earner in 1994 (the most recent year for which full data is available) compared with 8 per cent in 1979. Three out of every five entry jobs are part-time or temporary.



Supplied by NatWest Bank including Indian rupee and Israeli sheqel

CHEL TENHAM FESTIVAL

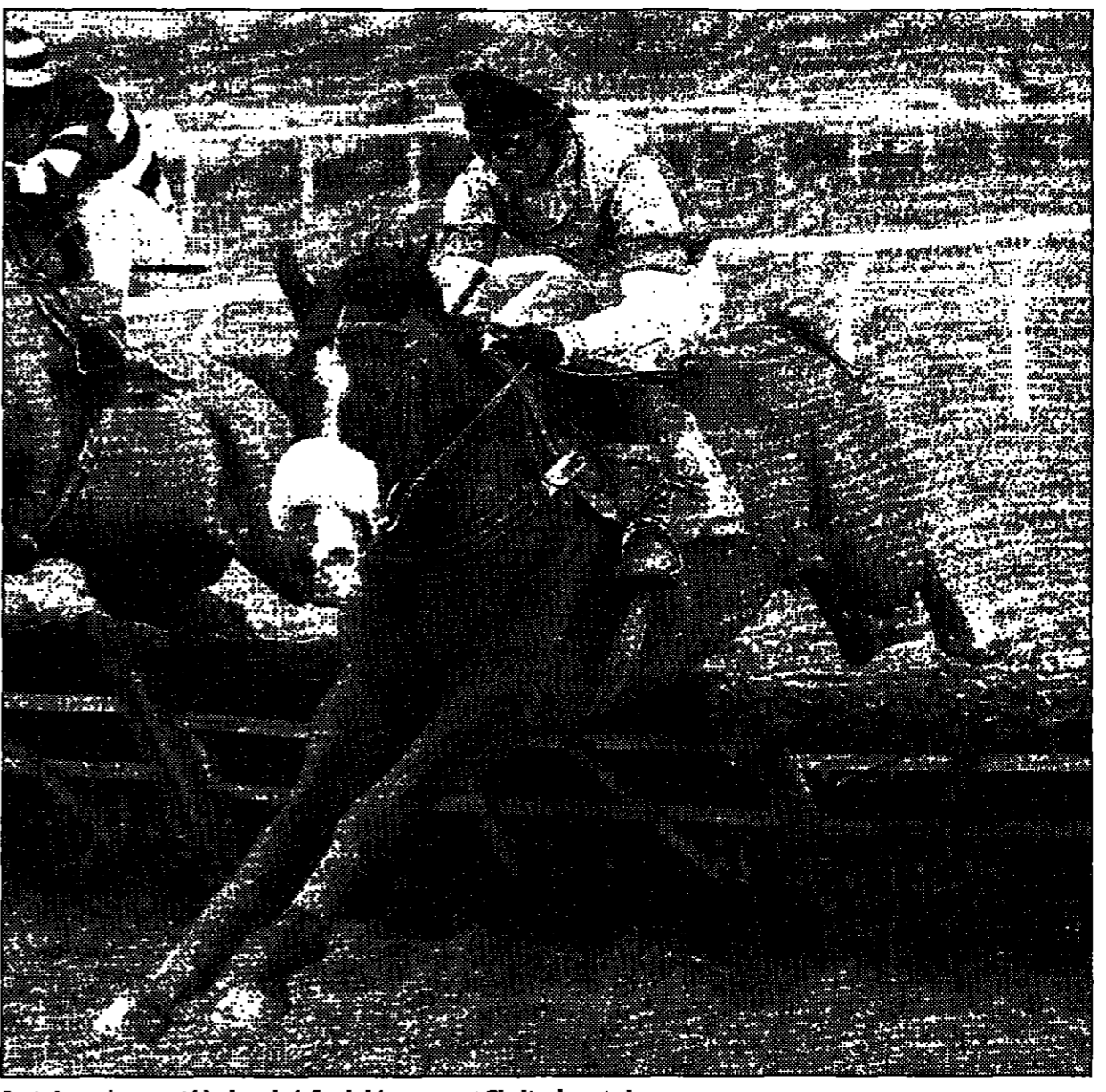
Alderbrook to take second step up the ladder of fame

Chris Hawkins sees little danger to the title holder in today's Champion Hurdle

ALDERBROOK is not yet talked about in the same breath as Persian War, Night Nurse or Bula, but a second successive Smurfit Champion Hurdle victory at Cheltenham today would surely put him up a rung or two in the post-war order of merit. He is a fast, natural jumper with a fine turn of speed and, with rain forecast, conditions should be ideal for him this afternoon. In these circumstances, it is hard to see him being beaten. One of the reasons Alderbrook is not yet regarded as one of the greats is that his record over timber has been few and far between and this will be only his fourth outing in two seasons. He won both last year, culminating in a five-length romp in the Champion, and proved his walking with an apparently effortless win over Mack The Knife at Kempton last month on his reappearance. It is not just over hurdles that he has made his mark. From his first start on the Flat he has put up some pretty high class performances, most notably last summer at Baden Baden when falling by three-quarters of a length to give 2lb to the subsequent Arc de Triomphe runner-up Free-

dom Cry. That would suggest he is one of the best dual-purpose horses we have seen for some time, and his opponents at the winter game know all about it - none of them has yet managed to get him off the bit. They live in hope, of course, and a mistake or two might bring him down to the level of an ordinary honest toiler. It may be offensive, even critical, to call a horse like Danoli a mere toiler for he is regarded, quite rightly, as a national hero in Ireland, revered almost as much as the mighty Arkle. That he is in the line-up this afternoon is something of a miracle. After finishing third to Alderbrook here last season (beaten seven lengths) he broke a leg at Aintree and it appeared that his career, and maybe even his life, was over. It is not just over hurdles that he has made his mark. From his first start on the Flat he has put up some pretty high class performances, most notably last summer at Baden Baden when falling by three-quarters of a length to give 2lb to the subsequent Arc de Triomphe runner-up Free-

Skilled veterinary care and the specific instruction of his trainer Tom Foley ("I sort of make it up as I go along, like") have conjured an incredible recovery. Danoli finished third on his reappearance, beaten only a head and half a length by Collier Bay and Hotel Minella in the Irish Champion at Leopardstown in January and has since trotted up in a little race at Gowran Park. Hotel Minella was said to hate the soft ground at Leopardstown and there is confidence in the Aidan O'Brien camp that he will reverse the form now. O'Brien, who trained a staggering 242 winners last year, is only 26 and already has a reputation for being a genius. Hotel Minella is nine and has a reputation for being a talented and tricky rider. Charlie Swan will try and hold him up for as long as possible and the race could develop into a sprint up the hill with Alderbrook. Land Afar has twice prom-



Just champion... Alderbrook defends his crown at Cheltenham today

One for racegoers to avoid

THOSE going to Cheltenham by road via the M4 and Cirencester are strongly advised to avoid the extensive roadworks on the A435 at Colebourne. It's too late for rail travellers to book the E133 9.50am special from Pad-

dington with champagne from the returned journey and Pullman dinner on the return trip. But there are still direct trains leaving at 9.03 (arr. 10.49) and 10.40 (arr. 12.30). Special trains return at 6.40pm, 7.35 and 8.50.

On paper, the toughest event of the day is the concluding Hamlet Claret Gold Cup Handicap Hurdle, but Fuzzy Logic (5.15) should run well. He loves the Cheltenham track and has a 5lb pull for a five-lengths beating by Pleasure Seeker at Chesham last time.

Big race field Channel 4

Table listing race details for Channel 4, including race numbers, names, and times.

Rest of the Cheltenham runners and riders

Table listing race details for the rest of the Cheltenham runners and riders, including race numbers, names, and times.

Channel 4

Table listing race details for Channel 4, including race numbers, names, and times.

Results

Table listing race results, including race numbers, names, and winners.

Sedgefield

Table listing race details for Sedgefield, including race numbers, names, and times.

Windsor card

Table listing race details for Windsor card, including race numbers, names, and times.

Results

Table listing race results for Windsor card, including race numbers, names, and winners.

Carlisle

Table listing race details for Carlisle, including race numbers, names, and times.

Stanton

Table listing race details for Stanton, including race numbers, names, and times.

Plumpton

Table listing race details for Plumpton, including race numbers, names, and times.

5.00

Table listing race details for 5.00, including race numbers, names, and times.

3.10

Table listing race details for 3.10, including race numbers, names, and times.

Large advertisement for RACELINE featuring 'FIRST FOR CHELTENHAM' and 'LIVE RACE COMMENTARY' with contact information.

14 SPORTS NEWS

Soccer

Wright is off target

Martin Thorpe on a striker who protests too much

IAN WRIGHT is a great striker because he hits the target so often. But one wonders whether the reasons he gave for his week-end transfer request were as accurate as his shooting.

McMahon sacks Trollope after 37 years' service to Swindon

JOHN TROLLOPE, the former Swindon full-back and manager, who played more league games for one club than any other player, has been fired as youth team coach after 37 years at the County Ground.

Asprilla asks FA to keep his hearing personal

THE Newcastle United striker Faustino Asprilla has requested a personal hearing before the Football Association to answer charges relating to last month's game against Manchester City.

But the 32-year-old striker has already made this difficult by his pre-emptive strike in the propaganda war this weekend.

There have been times when I feel my efforts have not been appreciated and I have been criticised harshly and unfairly.

Cynics addressing Wright's position might ask: if it is true that Rioch does not appreciate the player's efforts, why did he recently make such a fuss about him?

The fact that Wright wants away so vehemently, before the transfer deadline of Friday, suggests there is another motive.



Super salesman... Don King has engineered a brilliant coup with the hotel staging Saturday's big fight

MGM suffers a King sting

Kevin Mitchell reports from Las Vegas, where only Frank Bruno can prevent Mike Tyson's promoter from hitting the jackpot

DON KING refers to Mike Tyson as "my master", an image which reflects the willingness of promoter and fighter to sustain a working relationship based largely on that.

Now an investigation by the Associated Press claims to show that, when Tyson was released from prison a year ago, King secured for himself 616,557 shares in the MGM Grand Hotel.

Business experts agree, though, that he has done nothing illegal in the MGM deal.

The MGM, the biggest hotel in the world, has had a chequered year. Having declared it was going to dominate sport, things crumbled.

Those chiefs included the men who did the deal with King. There is irony for you.

Rugby League

Super Europe safe despite Murdoch rout

Paul Fitzpatrick

UNLESS an appeal is successful, Super League will not be allowed to start in Australia until 2000.

These were the main outcomes from the final orders handed down yesterday in Sydney by Justice Fockey.

The eight Australian clubs who broke away to form Super League have been ordered to return to the ARL, which hopes a 20-club competition scheduled to begin on March 1 will now start this weekend, or Friday week at the latest.

The ARL chief Ken Arthurson said yesterday that he has never been any doubt in his mind that the ARL would win the case.

Cycling

Boardman's test

William Fotheringham in Aubusson

CHRIS BOARDMAN describes as "the first test" today's third stage of the Paris-Nice to the village of Chalignac.

Given his pre-start fitness doubts, Boardman was encouraged by his form on yesterday's stage as he attempts to become the first Briton since Tom Simpson in 1967 to win the eight-day "Race to the Sun".

Results

Tennis

WRESTLING CUP (Indian Wells, California) Second round (US unless stated): M. Santschi (S) vs B. Labat (Arg) 6-2, 3-6, 6-2.

Basketball

MIAMI HEAT 102, Phoenix 106; Miami Heat 81, Milwaukee 103; Philadelphia 102, LA Clippers 104; Minnesota Timberwolves 104, New York Knicks 108.

Real Tennis

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP (Maldivian) Second day of three to finish (Aus): M. Gooding (GB) 5-3, 6-3, 6-1.

Snooker

THAILAND OPEN (Bangkok) First round: S. Dowie (Eng) vs S. Lee (Eng) 5-3.

Cricket

SHEFFIELD SHIELDS: North Wests Australia 224 (T. Moody 90) vs Wests 110 (D. Murray 200).

Cycling

RACE TO THE SUN: Second stage (Paris-Aubusson) 100km: P. Boardman (GB) 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th.

Ice Hockey

WESTERN LEAGUE: First Division: Birmingham 10, Peterborough 10.

Real Tennis

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP (Maldivian) Second day of three to finish (Aus): M. Gooding (GB) 5-3, 6-3, 6-1.

Snooker

THAILAND OPEN (Bangkok) First round: S. Dowie (Eng) vs S. Lee (Eng) 5-3.

Cricket

SHEFFIELD SHIELDS: North Wests Australia 224 (T. Moody 90) vs Wests 110 (D. Murray 200).

Cycling

RACE TO THE SUN: Second stage (Paris-Aubusson) 100km: P. Boardman (GB) 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th.

Sport in brief

Badminton

England's women, who beat Sweden in a Uber Cup qualifying encounter in Prague last month, have an encouraging draw for the world team finals in Hong Kong in May.

Cricket

GRAHAM DILLEY, the 36-year-old former England batsman, yesterday resigned from Surrey's coaching staff.

Tennis

TIM HENMAN from Oxford has risen another 15 places to 64th in the world rankings and closed on Britain's top-ranked player Greg Rusedski, down from 42 to 44.

Billiards

ALEX HIGGINS, "completely exhausted", failed to appear for his World Matchplay Championship first-round match against John McInerney in Ballymena yesterday.

Snooker

STEVE DAVIS had to graft to beat Stephen Lee 5-3 to reach the last 16 of the Thailand Open in Bangkok yesterday.

Hockey

England short of top three

THREE of England's most experienced players, the forwards Jason Laslett, Russell Garcia and Rob Thompson, will miss the match against India at Milton Keynes on Sunday week.

Rowing

PHILIPPS and Warrington won their regional leagues at the weekend and will join Harborne, Lewes, Oxford Hawke, Wexham, and two National League sides to be decided in the National League play-offs.

Pools Forecast

FR CARLING PREMIERSHIP: 1. Coventry vs Bolton; 2. Liverpool vs Chelsea.

Football

PREMIERSHIP: 1. Arsenal vs Liverpool; 2. Manchester United vs Tottenham.

Rugby League

WARRIOR MATCHES: Castleford vs Wakefield; Leeds vs Hull.

Rugby Union

WELSH LEAGUE: Cardiff vs Newport; Gloucester vs Bath.

Hockey

England short of top three

THREE of England's most experienced players, the forwards Jason Laslett, Russell Garcia and Rob Thompson, will miss the match against India at Milton Keynes on Sunday week.

Rowing

PHILIPPS and Warrington won their regional leagues at the weekend and will join Harborne, Lewes, Oxford Hawke, Wexham, and two National League sides to be decided in the National League play-offs.

Pools Forecast

FR CARLING PREMIERSHIP: 1. Coventry vs Bolton; 2. Liverpool vs Chelsea.

Football

PREMIERSHIP: 1. Arsenal vs Liverpool; 2. Manchester United vs Tottenham.

Rugby League

WARRIOR MATCHES: Castleford vs Wakefield; Leeds vs Hull.

Rugby Union

WELSH LEAGUE: Cardiff vs Newport; Gloucester vs Bath.

Teamtalk: The Independent News and Reports Service. Call 0891 33 77+. Arsenal 06 Ipswich Town 19 Sheffield United 18.

Sport: The Guardian. MARK LANE, LEADS LISTEN, RELIABLE. 0171 733 4473.

Large advertisement for 'Old g' featuring a man's face and the text 'Old g' and 'But it's...'. Includes a 'Take Herro' logo.

WORLD CUP CRICKET

Quarter-finals: South Africa v West Indies

Lara and Co bounce back in style

Mike Selvey in Karachi

LESS than a fortnight ago West Indies cricket suffered the darkest day in its history, humbled by Kenya in Pune. They were a bickering, fractious, factioned side in torment, and they were on the brink of returning home in disgrace to face the vilification of the islands for whom success at cricket has a meaning beyond most people's understanding.

But with humiliation sometimes comes catharsis and so yesterday, with the management team sacked, the captain having tendered his resignation, and grievances aired long into the nights since, they rose to beat South Africa: everyone knew where he stood and they all became brothers, a unit, a team once more.

As Courtney Walsh knocked back Paul Adams's middle stump with the third ball of the final over to complete the game, there were scenes of passion. Stumps were snatched. Fires were never higher and the hugs of joy were genuine, mirrored no doubt in the rum shops and bars of the Caribbean that stayed open long into the night to witness just such a moment.

Behind it all, dignified, always believing, was Richie Richardson who, long criticised for his lack of tactical awareness, had marshalled his men superbly.

At the awards ceremony afterwards the commentator Bob Willis, who has done all but wear a Protea shirt during this tournament, gave Hansie Cronje his due — "credit to the competition... wonderful effort... blab, blab" — before asking Richardson for a few words of consolation.

Richardson who, long criticised for his lack of tactical awareness, had marshalled his men superbly. At the awards ceremony afterwards the commentator Bob Willis, who has done all but wear a Protea shirt during this tournament, gave Hansie Cronje his due — "credit to the competition... wonderful effort... blab, blab" — before asking Richardson for a few words of consolation.



Sweeping to victory... South Africa's wicketkeeper Palframan can only watch as Lara strikes on his way to a brilliant 111

Richardson who, long criticised for his lack of tactical awareness, had marshalled his men superbly. At the awards ceremony afterwards the commentator Bob Willis, who has done all but wear a Protea shirt during this tournament, gave Hansie Cronje his due — "credit to the competition... wonderful effort... blab, blab" — before asking Richardson for a few words of consolation.

Richardson who, long criticised for his lack of tactical awareness, had marshalled his men superbly. At the awards ceremony afterwards the commentator Bob Willis, who has done all but wear a Protea shirt during this tournament, gave Hansie Cronje his due — "credit to the competition... wonderful effort... blab, blab" — before asking Richardson for a few words of consolation.

Richardson who, long criticised for his lack of tactical awareness, had marshalled his men superbly. At the awards ceremony afterwards the commentator Bob Willis, who has done all but wear a Protea shirt during this tournament, gave Hansie Cronje his due — "credit to the competition... wonderful effort... blab, blab" — before asking Richardson for a few words of consolation.

Richardson who, long criticised for his lack of tactical awareness, had marshalled his men superbly. At the awards ceremony afterwards the commentator Bob Willis, who has done all but wear a Protea shirt during this tournament, gave Hansie Cronje his due — "credit to the competition... wonderful effort... blab, blab" — before asking Richardson for a few words of consolation.

Richardson who, long criticised for his lack of tactical awareness, had marshalled his men superbly. At the awards ceremony afterwards the commentator Bob Willis, who has done all but wear a Protea shirt during this tournament, gave Hansie Cronje his due — "credit to the competition... wonderful effort... blab, blab" — before asking Richardson for a few words of consolation.

Australia v New Zealand

Cool Waugh pulls victory out of the fire

David Hopps in Madras

AUSTRALIA have rarely been in more urgent need of Mark Waugh's nonchalant batting talents than they were in the steamy atmosphere of the Chepauk Stadium yesterday, and he did not fail them as he produced a century of considerable grace to quell the doughtiest of New Zealand challenges.

This World Cup is becoming the platform for the fulfilment of a remarkable talent. Waugh has already made 466 runs at an average of 94, the leading aggregate in the tournament, his 110 from 112 balls yesterday enabling Australia to reach the semi-finals with six wickets and more than two overs in hand.

For a display of raw courage, no one could rival New Zealand's all-rounder Chris Harris, whose own hundred left his face pained with exhaustion and put Australia on the brink of elimination as they faced an intimidating total of 286 for nine.

Waugh was not remotely fazed. He batted with a cool detachment that contrasted vividly with the exertions of Harris and his captain Lee Germon in the heat of the day. These days, however, for all his sang-froid, Waugh's desire burns more intensely as if he is determined to lay for all time his reputation as an under-achiever.

Waugh's first fifty passed by virtually unnoticed as New Zealand, heartened by excellent new-ball spells by Dion Nash and the off-spinner Dipak Patel, held Australia in check. When Patel returned, Waugh struck him for two long-on sixes so smooth that the night air barely rustled. By the time he eventually fell, lofting Nash to long-on, his poise had infiltrated the Australian dressing-room. Steve Waugh and Stuart Law completed the formalities with ease.

"I got cramps in my calves when I'd got about 10 but fortunately I got a second wind," said Waugh, who became the first man to make three centuries in a World Cup. In this mood there is every prospect of him adding a fourth.

New Zealand will rue the fielding lapses which allowed Shane Warne, promoted to No. 4 with an urgent need to slow the bowlers, two lives in making a rapid 24, the first lapse by Nash as he hauled Thomson's off-spin to deep midwicket, the second a simple strike induced by Nash and fumbled by Patel at mid-on.

New Zealand also envisaged a score in excess of 300 after reaching the 30-over mark at 180 for three but Germon was caught for 88, Fleming diving

forward at long-off, Harris was spent long before he struck Warne's final delivery to deep midwicket and support elsewhere was sadly lacking for a side that could field a batsman of Patel's talent at No. 10. As New Zealand fell away, Bevan's left-arm chinaman did Australia proud.

There is nothing elegant about Harris. In fact, his style is particularly gawky — and the all-rounder grinned throughout every hauled drive and pull as if he realised that he will never experience another day like it. He later grazed his arm, pulling off a brilliant stop in the covers and negotiated his spell of slow-medium with the aching feet of a man fated to wade everlastingly through a cabbage patch.

With his light-grey kit stained dark with sweat, and his thinning hair drenched with mineral water, Harris became increasingly afflicted by cramp in the later stages of his innings. Several times he seemed on the verge of calling for a runner but instead he battled gamely on, sinking to his knees with exhaustion in the closing overs.

Harris had joined his captain Germon as an expendable batsman promoted to maintain the momentum of the innings. At 44 for three in the ninth over, with Fleming encouraged by outswing and McGrath by bounce, New Zealand were in a parlous position. Another quick wicket would have forced them to retrench but Harris and Germon were undaunted as they played 168 in 27 overs.

Australia, under the cosh, were reduced to an old standby — four overs of abuse-ridden medium-pace by Steve Waugh. 'Junior' Waugh was to make his mark more tranquilly.

Australia, under the cosh, were reduced to an old standby — four overs of abuse-ridden medium-pace by Steve Waugh. 'Junior' Waugh was to make his mark more tranquilly.

Australia, under the cosh, were reduced to an old standby — four overs of abuse-ridden medium-pace by Steve Waugh. 'Junior' Waugh was to make his mark more tranquilly.

Australia, under the cosh, were reduced to an old standby — four overs of abuse-ridden medium-pace by Steve Waugh. 'Junior' Waugh was to make his mark more tranquilly.

Australia, under the cosh, were reduced to an old standby — four overs of abuse-ridden medium-pace by Steve Waugh. 'Junior' Waugh was to make his mark more tranquilly.

Australia, under the cosh, were reduced to an old standby — four overs of abuse-ridden medium-pace by Steve Waugh. 'Junior' Waugh was to make his mark more tranquilly.

Golf

Rookie Herron is rock solid

David Davies in Coral Springs

AS a thoroughly sodden Sunday drew to a dank, but dramatic close, Tim Herron demonstrated one last time why he had seemed destined to win the Honda Classic.

Herron had arrived at the Eagle Trace club here in Florida a complete unknown. He left clutching a cheque for \$539,000 (\$157,000 having got round one of the US Tour's tougher tracks in a 17-under-par 271. To achieve that he had used only 107 putts in the four rounds, none of them more important than the one at the penultimate hole.

Herron had putted beautifully all week but, as a rookie in only his seventh US Tour event, he was understandably "a little anxious" on the 17th tee, even with a five-stroke lead. The hole is only 171 yards but between tee and green there is nothing but

water. "I rushed the shot. I got it fat, it went into the hole," said Herron later and indeed so awful was the shot that it seemed even a lead as large as his might dissolve in the next few minutes.

So what did Herron do? He did what he had been doing all week. He hit his third shot to 12 feet and holed one of the most vital putts he will ever have to make for a four. "I was just rolling the pill, the rock, whatever you want to call it, just awesome this hole," said the 26-year-old Minnesota native.

Pressed, he could only add: "As I was walking round that lake I just had this feeling that I was going to make the putt." Indeed, so often had he holed putts just when he needed to that most people at Eagle Trace probably felt he was going to hole it too, and so he became a winner in a field containing Greg Norman, Nick Price, Payne Stewart and Nick Faldo. That, he allowed, was awesome.

It was a word he used a lot in the immediate aftermath of his win to describe a victory that could hardly have been less expected. Herron, a Walker Cup player in 1993, has spent the intervening time touring the world trying to find tournaments. He has found himself competing in Canada, Australia and on the Nike tour, the subsidiary tour in America.

Now he finds himself in the field for the Masters. Had he ever played Augusta? "Hell no," he said. "I'm from Minnesota. We're not even playing golf in April. I just usually sit and watch it on TV."

Had he an explanation for his win? "Everyone kept telling me I had this unbelievable talent," said Herron on Sunday. "But if I had, why wasn't I shooting good golf scores? I got a little frustrated." That, it seems, is code for angry and a large part of his win was because at last he contained his temper — not forgetting 107 putts.

Not that such a low number guarantees victory. Nick Faldo, who by playing the last 54 holes in 12 under par equalled the best efforts of anyone else in the field, also had 107 putts, which helped to lift him to joint ninth, earning him \$55,100.

He finished one shot better than Sandy Lyle's win in the locker room afterwards, could talk of nothing but his putting. It was little wonder for he had nine more than either Herron or Faldo and, had he putted at their level, would have come second.

In recent years Lyle has tried a more consistent way of putting, including his present method of left hand below right and also the long putter. But he has ruled out a trip to Dave Pelz, the putting guru to whom Bernhard Langer repaired two weeks ago in search of salvation. "I'll find something," said Lyle, who is prepared to work as hard as necessary to do so.

Athletics

Kipketer must run for Kenya

WILSON KIPKETER, the 800 metres world champion, must compete for his native Kenya and not for Denmark, his adopted country, at the Atlanta Olympics, the African country insisted yesterday.

Kipketer wants to run for Denmark, for whom he won a gold medal at the world championships last year, even though he is not a Danish citizen. But Charles Mukora, chairman of Kenya's Olympic Committee, said Kipketer cannot do so because the International Olympic Committee Charter requires Olympic competitors to be citizens of the countries they represent.

Kipketer will not meet the seven-year residency requirement to become a Danish citizen until next year. The IOC believes he could qualify for Atlanta if the Danish parliament granted him early citizenship, but that appears unlikely.

Ice Hockey

Council may ban Wasps

Vic Batchelder

DURHAM WASPS may be forced to quit the Crowtree Leisure Centre in Sunderland at the end of the season in the wake of the brawl on Saturday which has brought swift condemnation from the local authority.

The fighting resulted in the game against Humberdale Hawks being abandoned after 56 seconds when police arrived, the second time in three months they had been called to the venue following a violent incident.

Bryn Sidaway, the leader of Sunderland City Council, said: "I'm just pleased the ice hockey team does not carry the name of Sunderland. We do not want our city associated with that kind of behaviour. I know it's a very hard physical sport but this is just disgraceful bad behaviour and it's unacceptable."

Sidaway said the Wasps, who are part of Sir John

Hall's Newcastle Sporting Club, had "already been warned about their conduct at Crowtree", a reference to the earlier incident.

Irene Lucas, the council's general manager of direct services, said yesterday that a meeting would take place this week with the Wasps management but that "talk of banning the Wasps from the centre is premature".

Newcastle Sporting Club said it was unable to comment because of the police investigation but, if the Wasps have to leave Sunderland, they could be without a home as Sir John's planning application for an 8,000-seat indoor arena adjacent to St James' Park was rejected by Newcastle City Council.

Meanwhile the British Ice Hockey Association has ordered the match, a British Championship play-off, to be replayed tomorrow night. However, the Sunderland rink may not be available, so those at Blackburn and Not-

tingham have been put on standby.

Saturday's brawl occurred during the warm-up and the earlier incident had taken to hospital having sustained a broken nose and lost some teeth. The Durham players Ross Lambert and Jon Weaver were later arrested.

In the incident three months ago, in a match against Sheffield Steelers, Lambert was the injured party. Nicky Chinn is due to appear in court later this month facing a charge of wounding with intent to cause grievous bodily harm.

Wasps faced better on Sunday when five players, including Lambert, shared the goals in a 6-2 win at Cardiff. Sheffield Steelers' hopes of adding the British Championship to the league title and Benson and Hedges Cup received a jolt when they lost 5-2 at Basingstoke on Saturday. However, they recovered to beat File 11-0 in Kirkcaldy the following evening.

Wild game, but then the English have always been partial to blood sports. First game April 14th London Monarchs v Scottish Claymores

AMERICAN FOOTBALL. ENGLISH TURF. CALL 0500 35 35 35 FOR TICKETS. In this sport, it's the humans who are treated with cruelty. Venue: White Hart Lane, Tottenham • Home games: April 14, May 6, May 19, May 27, June 16 • Courtesy shuttle bus with return service from Seven Sisters tube • Pre-game Power Party at 12:00pm • Kick-off at 3:00pm • Half-price admission for children 12 and under • Season tickets: 5 for the price of 4.

Cheltenham Festival opening day, page 13
Boardman's Paris-Nice 'test', page 14

Super League faces ban till 2000, page 14
South Africa's bubble bursts, page 15

SportsGuardian

FRENCHMAN'S STRIKE SEES UNITED HOME AND DRY IN THE OLD TRAFFORD RAIN

FA Cup, sixth round: Manchester United 2, Southampton 0

Cantona scuppers Saints

Cynthia Bateman

A HUNDRED of a cup tie in which Manchester United by no means had everything their own way, was settled by the simplest of goals as Eric Cantona tapped in a cross from Ryan Giggs at the start of the second half. Sharpe's last-minute goal added insult to injury.

United, in front of a 45,446 crowd, became the first side to book a semi-final spot and will meet either Wimbledon or Chelsea at Villa Park. An absorbing game saw Southampton hold out against a rampant United and then have a goal by Neil Shipperley disallowed in controversial circumstances just before the interval.

Old Trafford was not exactly packed to the rafters, with one tier of the new North Stand still empty, but it still provided a terrific theatre for a match of this importance. The only other gaps in the packed ranks were at the Southampton end. They had returned 4,000 of their tickets unsold, an indication that the Saints' supporters were travelling more in hope that realism as the rank outsiders to win the Cup met the firm favourites.

The trouble with playing underdogs, though, as United soon found out, is that since nothing better is expected of them, they enjoy snapping at the heels and biting a few legs.

Southampton, the last side to win here in a quarter-final, and then on penalties in a fourth-round replay four years ago, began with tremendous spirit, momentarily forgetting that the idea was to keep things tight at the back.

The result was a series of swift, incisive moves from United that simply cut through the Southampton ranks and gave Beasant an early work-out.

United's winged heels showed their worth, as United soon found out, is that since nothing better is expected of them, they enjoy snapping at the heels and biting a few legs. Within minutes, United had



Up and over... the Southampton striker Neil Shipperley, later to have a 'goal' ruled out, leaps to get the better of Steve Bruce

rattled Southampton. Giggs's chance for Keane, saw Monkou, who was magnificent in Southampton's defence, clear off the line before Butt played Cantona through. He beat the advancing Beasant but failed to chase as the ball bounced over the goalkeeper, and the scamparing Monkou cleared off the line. Cole had another chance a

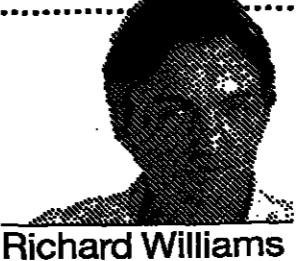
few minutes later but could put no power on the shot and then blocked a volley from Butt. All this before a quarter of an hour had passed. Next Sharpe had a header saved at the foot of the post, and Cole felt hard done by not to get a penalty when Hall appeared to wrestle him to the ground as he went for goal. But Southampton survived and began to gain ground. A free-kick from 30 yards looked tailor made for Le Tissier, but he was unable to produce the magic and Cantona headed clear for a corner.

Charlton had a superb shot tipped away as Phil Neville lay injured in the penalty area just before half-time and Schmeichel was booked for giving the referee a mouthful. But two minutes before the interval, Dods supplied a cross from the right for Shipperley to head past Schmeichel. It looked a legitimate goal but the referee saw a foul as Shipperley went up for the ball with Sharpe and disallowed the effort. Southampton continued to make the running at the start of the second half when Wal-

ters escaped down the left and crossed for Le Tissier, whose header went wide. But within five minutes of the restart, United were ahead. Cole's through ball found Giggs, whose square pass across the face of goal by-passed Beasant and found Cantona unmarked at the far post and able to simply tap dance United into the lead. Southampton pressed United into their own area as they threw caution to the winds. An equaliser almost came just before the hour from Le Tissier's pass to Wal-

ters whose effort Schmeichel just saved with his feet. The goalkeeper did the same again when Oakley fired a powerful low drive from a Le Tissier corner. But when United broke only Beasant stood in Cole's way after he accepted the baton from Giggs who had run half the length of the field. The goalkeeper never flinched. Southampton pressed United into their own area as they threw caution to the winds. An equaliser almost came just before the hour from Le Tissier's pass to Wal-

Very British, the bravery of Brundle



Richard Williams

WAS halfway through a lollipop, one of those chocolate and ice-cream jobs, when Martin Brundle had his accident on Sunday. There was a kind of collective gasp and then a groan in the Melbourne press room as we watched his car flying along the track, upside down at zero feet, before it started tumbling into a series of cartwheels, destroying itself in a cloud of dust and wreckage.

One does not know what to do at such moments. There is no etiquette. Do you turn away or carry on watching? Finishing the lollipop did not seem quite apropos. I do not believe anyone goes to a motor race in the hope of seeing an accident. But the spectacular ones do stick in the memory, especially when they involve a phenomenal escape. One recalls Andrea de Cesaris rolling his Ligier countless times over the grass in Austria in 1985. Mauricio Gugelmin flying his March above the pack at Le Castellet in 1990 and Christian Fittipaldi's Minardi almost looping the loop at Monza three years ago.

But in its sudden awfulness Brundle's accident reminded me of that Sunday afternoon six years ago when Gerhard Berger's red Ferrari disappeared in a sudden efflorescence of bright yellow flame at the hairpin bend of Tamburino curve, the spot where Ayrton Senna was to lose his life.

As Berger's car smashed into the wall and caught fire, millions were watching the telecast. I remember hitting the "off" button on the zapper. He had to be dying in there and I did not want to watch it. Two or three minutes later, prompted by who knows what urges, I switched back on to discover that the fire had been put out within seconds. But that Berger was suffering not much more than a pair of badly scorched hands. Last Sunday the lollipop was still in my hand when, through the settling dust, the helmeted figure of Brundle could be seen, held upright by a couple of officials but nevertheless clearly still in possession of two arms and two legs. The cheer in the press room was succeeded by an aston-

ished chatter as the TV cameras refocused on the gold Jordan, torn in two just behind the driver's seat.

"It just kept rolling over and over," Brundle said later, "and when it stopped I could feel fluid coming out. I thought it was petrol but it wasn't, it was coming out of my drinks bottle. I was fine. When I got out I thought 'That's made a mess of the Half a million worth, or whatever, just history'."

Brundle's subsequent sprint up and down the pit lane, wearing thick flame-proof overalls in 86-degree heat, will become a minor motor-racing legend, a perfect what-happened next moment for A Question of Sport.

He was in search of Prof Syd Watkins, the veteran Formula One medical chief.

"Two doctors saw me in the pits and said I was fine but they wouldn't let me go until I'd seen Prof Watkins and got his permission," Brundle explained. "Nobody seemed to be able to tell me where he was. If I'd waited for somebody else to find him, I'd have missed the restart. So I had to go and find him myself."

Watkins put his arm around Brundle's shoulders and listened to his plea. And, when he cleared him to jump into the restarted race, there was a moment of pure elation that went to the centre of the human spirit.

AFTERWARDS Brundle achieved the sort of matter-of-factness that we admire in our British heroes. "If I'd lost consciousness during the accident," he said, "I wouldn't have got back in. But Syd's known me for a dozen years and, when he saw me sprinting 500 metres towards him, he guessed that I was all right."

It did not really matter that, for Brundle, the restarted race lasted only a few more corners. "I caught up on the pack but my brakes were cold from starting from the pits. They need to be up to about 600 centigrade before they'll work properly. But, when I came up behind (Pedro) Diniz and he braked early, I didn't have that luxury."

This time the accident was more banal in scale and much less expensive but Martin Brundle had already done his job for the day. He had reminded those of us eating lollipops in the press room of drinking champagne in the corporate hospitality boxes of the courage every racing driver possesses, and of why we were there at all.

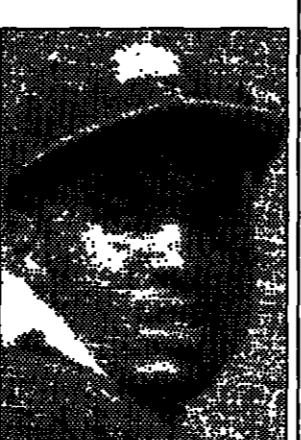
Lara and Waugh hundreds set up classic semi-final

WEST Indies set up what promises to be an epic World Cup semi-final against Australia on Thursday after beating the joint favourites South Africa by 19 runs in Karachi yesterday.

The result represented a remarkable comeback for a team who had been written off and pilloried 12 days previously when they had been humiliated by Kenya. Brian Lara also put his personal troubles behind him by striking a magnificent 111 off 94 balls. Only last week he had been forced to apologise for "anti-South Africa" comments - remarks which Lara said were taken out of context.

"It was a nightmare against Kenya," said Richie Richardson. "But we have come out of the almost bottomless pit and bounced back. People at home are very hungry for success

and we have let them down a bit recently." However, Richardson insisted that he will not rethink his decision to retire from international cricket even if West Indies win the tournament.



Lara... back to his best

They now travel to India for the second semi-final in Chandigarh. Waiting for them will be Australia, whom they beat in a group match, although for a while yesterday it looked as if it might be New Zealand.

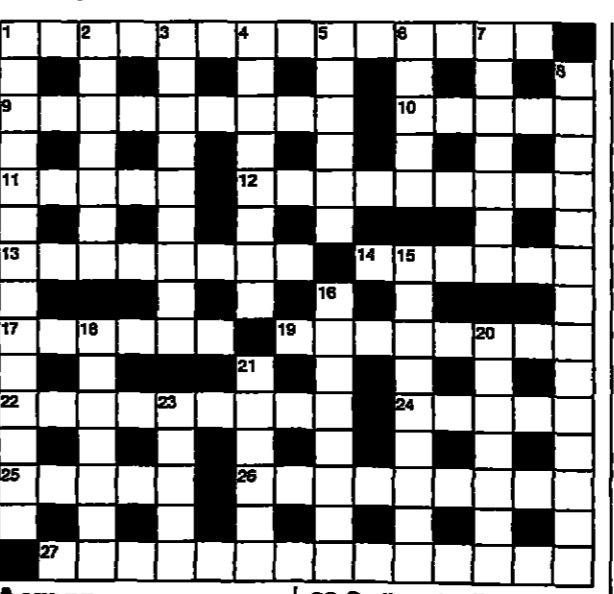
In Madras the Kiwis posted a daunting 286 for nine - their highest ever one-day total against Australia - but Mark Taylor's team simply set their sights a little higher and reached their target with six wickets to spare. Mark Waugh scored 110 - his third century in four World Cup matches - while his twin brother Steve hit an unbeaten 60.

With Sri Lanka and India meeting in tomorrow's first semi-final in Calcutta, it means the four qualifiers from Group A have enjoyed a clean sweep against the four from Group B.

Match reports, page 15

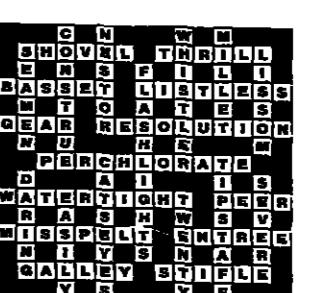
Guardian Crossword No 20,598

Set by Janus



Across
1 What charlady might do in once-disputed area (5,3,3)
9 One possessing power of mighty goddess (5)
10 Turn (or half a turn?) (5)
11 For them it is natural to sing a part (5)
12 Detestable river-crustacean to the French (5)
13 Settle security in children's conceptions (5)
14 Good strong leader on first-class little tree (5)
17 Mistake by king's chief electrician (5)
19 Sweets said to be just reward (5)
22 Girl-friend at a Roman one may be taken back (5)
24 What's left by novice in rice-patch (5)
25 Taken in at school it is said (5)

Down
1 Where dad turned up a freshly-minted coin (5,3,3)
2 Understatement involving falsehoods about child (7)
3 Rock striking wrong note on the beach (5)
4 Ducal carriage? (5)
5 Jacket seen when queen goes to bank (5)
6 Does it flow in the veins of classic horse? (5)
7 Travel-book? (7)
8 Financial institution and what it might do (7,7)
15 They keep an eye on attendants at outside broadcast (5)
16 Does he restore broken marriages? (5)



CROSSWORD SOLUTION 20,597

18 Had no food out East but fared sumptuously (7)
20 Relief-work by soldier on olive-press (7)
21 Find fault with alien visitor's floor-covering (5)
23 Light-weight feline (5)

Solution tomorrow
Published by Guardian Newspapers Limited at 118 Farringdon Road, London EC2A 4DF, and at 184 Deodar Road, Manchester M20 2PR. Printed at West Ferry Printers Ltd, 236 West Ferry Road, London E14 6HQ. Tuesday March 12, 1996. Longbridge Road, Manchester M17 1SL. Te-Druckerei GmbH, Adm.-Rendeb.-Druckerei, 5078 Neu-Isenburg; Zographische Komplex, Nord-Süd, 1521 rue du Calva, BP69 - 59052 Roubaix. Code: 1, France, for and on behalf of the Guardian and Manchester Evening News PLC. 46,098. Tuesday March 12, 1996. Registered as a newspaper at the Post Office ISSN 0261-3077. London Telephone 0171-578 2332. Telex 8611746 (Guard G). Fax 0171-437 2114. 0171-533 0342. Telephone sales 0171-411 8000. Subscribers Tel 0161-432 7200. Fax 0161-432 3251/034 9171. Tel sales 0161-434 9999

YOU CAN GO ANYWHERE TO GET AN MBA

WITH A HENLEY MBA YOU CAN GO ANYWHERE

FULL-TIME, MODULAR & DISTANCE LEARNING

The Henley MBA is recognised as the definitive MBA by industry worldwide.

Run in conjunction with Brunel University, it takes a truly international perspective.

It is flexible enough to fit into your lifestyle. It opens doors around the world.

Call now for a brochure on 01491 418803 and you'll be heading in the right direction.

HENLEY Management College

BUILDING PEOPLE - BUILDING BUSINESS

HENLEY MANAGEMENT COLLEGE, GREENLANDS, HENLEY-ON-THAMES, OXON RG9 3AU
TEL +44 (0)1491 571434 FAX +44 (0)1491 571635 EMAIL: RIB@henley.ac.uk
INTERNET: http://www.henley.ac.uk

To be the executor of the estate of a famous writer is, these days, the beginning of a hell lasting years. Armies of academics and scribblers will battle for the trinkets. What you are adjudicating is the ownership of a life.

G2 page 4